OMAMORI HIMARI 5

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

MILAN MATAA

5
OMAMORI HIMARI

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

KUESU JINGUUJI

A MYSTERIOUS GIRL WHO CONFRONTED HIMARI AND YUUTO. THE HEIRESS TO ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, THE JINGUUJI, AND YUUTO'S BETROTHED. SHE HAS DECLARED A CEASE-FIRE AGAINST HIMARI AND THE OTHER AYAKASHI AND IS KEEPING BUSY IN HER DEN TRYING TO REVIVE HIMARI'S SWORD, YASUTSUNA.

HIMARI

THE HEROINE OF THIS STORY. SHE'S A CAT AYAKASHI, OR SPIRIT, WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE YUUTO TO SERVE AS HIS BODYGUARD. THANKS TO A PRANK PULLED BY KUESU, HER BODY HAS REVERTED BACK TO A CHILD'S, AND HER POWERS HAVE GREATLY DIMINISHED.

YUUTO

THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE'S YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S THE CURRENT DEMON SLAYER OF THE "AMAKAWA FAMILY," ONE OF TWELVE SUCH FAMILIES. HE'S ALLERGIC TO CATS, SO WHEN HIMARI TAKES ON HER TRUE FORM, HIS EYES AND NOSE CAN'T STOP RUNNING.

LIZLET L. CHELSIE

LIZ FOR SHORT, THIS YOUNG GIRL WORKS AT THE CAFÉ WHERE HIMARI WORKS PART-TIME, BUT HER TRUE FORM IS A TSUKUMOGAMI—A TEACUP THAT HAS COME TO LIFE. SHE'S FOND OF YUUTO AND CALLS HIM HER "SPECIAL CUSTOMER."

RINKO

YUUTO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE'S LOOKED AFTER YUUTO LIKE A SIBLING SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, BUT EVER SINCE HIMARI SHOWED UP, SHE'S STARTED SEEING HIM MORE AS A "MAN."

SHIZUKU

AN AYAKASHI WHO MANIPULATES WATER. HER CLAN DESTROYED BY DEMON SLAYERS, SHE HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST THEM AND ATTACKED YUUTO IN REVENGE. BUT PERPLEXED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS, SHE HAS DECIDED TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE WITH HIM.

THE STORY SO FAR

YUUTO AMAKAWA IS A HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A SEVERE ALLERGY TO CATS. WHO SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE HIM ONE DAY OTHER THAN A FELINE AYAKASHI, HIMARI?

"I WILL PROTECT YOU, YUUTO."

SUCH IS THE PROCLAMATION MADE BY HIMARI HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE DUTY OF PROTECTING YUUTO, THANKS TO A PLEDGE MADE LONG AGO. BUT YUUTO ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RINKO, AS WELL AS THE AYAKASHI SHIZUKU, WHO WAS SWAYED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS AND DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HIM. WITH ALL THESE GIRLS IN HIS LIFE, YUUTO'S DAYS QUICKLY BECOME OFF-THE-WALL AND FULL OF FUN WITH NO END OF SURPRISES.

THOSE PEACEFUL DAYS COME TO A CRASHING HALT WHEN THE HEIRESS TO ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, KUESU JINGUUJI, SHOWS UP AND CHALLENGES HIMARI TO A DUEL.

"I'LL SUBJUGATE YOU, CAT BEAST."

IN THE HEAT OF THE BATTLE, HIMARI LOSES HER BELOVED SWORD, YASUTSUNA, AND IS SENT RUNNING BY KUESU AND HER SHOWER OF BULLETS.

WHEN YUUTO SEES THE DANGER AND PAIN HIMARI'S BEEN PUT THROUGH, HE DECIDES TO GO SPEAK TO KUESU HIMSELF. BUT HE QUICKLY LEARNS THAT KUESU'S NOT IN THE MOOD TO TALK THINGS OUT. WHEN YUUTO ACCUSES HER OF ONLY APPROACHING HIM FOR THE HONOR OF HER FAMILY'S BLOODLINE, SHE ATTACKS HIM IN AN ATTEMPT TO AWAKEN THE LATENT AMAKAWA POWERS WITHIN HIM. HE UNLEASHES THE "LIGHT FERRY," THROWING KUESU CLEAN OUT THE WINDOW. UPON SEEING HIS LIGHT FERRY WITH HIS OWN TWO EYES, YUUTO IS REMINDED OF DORMANT MEMORIES FROM HIS CHILDHOOD.

"I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ALL GUNG-HO ABOUT BEING A DEMON SLAYER....."

INDEED, IT HAD BEEN YUUTO WHO PROMISED KUESU HE'D FIGHT ALONGSIDE HER AS A DEMON SLAYER ONE DAY. AS YUUTO WALLOWS IN SELF-LOATHING OVER THE PROMISE HE'S BROKEN, KUESU RISES INTO THE AIR WITH HER MAGIC AND TELLS HIM THIS:

"IF YOU CAN STILL SHOW CONCERN FOR ME LIKE THAT, THEN I HAVE SOME HOPE LEFT YET."

OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR YUUTO HAVING REMEMBERED SOMETHING SO PRECIOUS, KUESU AGREES TO HOLD OFF ON ATTACKING HIMARI AND THE OTHER AYAKASHI.

AT LAST, EVERYTHING IS BACK TO ITS NORMAL PEACEFUL PACE. UNTIL ONE DAY, THANKS TO A DIRTY TRICK BY KUESU, HIMARI'S BODY REVERTS TO ITS CHILD FORM, AND SHE FINDS HERSELF UNABLE TO FULFILL HER ROLE AS BODYGUARD. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, ANOTHER ENEMY SHOWS UP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LAPSE IN PROTECTION!

"YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN OLD AGEHA-SAN, NOW WOULD YOU?"

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YUUTO AND HIS FRIENDS NEXT!?

YUUTO...
JAMP
I KNOW. THERE'S NO NEED TO TELL THEM ABOUT HIMARI.
.....
...HER MASTER COULD BE KILLED IN-STANTLY.
NOT TO MENTION, THAT CRIMSON BLADE IS SO CARELESS... WHEN SHE LEAVES HER POST...
!
IT'S BEEN SINCE NOIHARA, HASN'T IT? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT WHERE'S THAT MONSTER CAT SAMURAI YOU'RE SO PROUD OF?
OUT TO LUNCH?

MENAGERIE 25:
LOLITA KITTY STRIKES BACK

MENAGERIE 25: LOLITA KITTY STRIKES BACK

B-BUT YUUTO SAVED YOUR LIFE...!
BISHI (YOINK)
!!
I'M NOT SHY ABOUT THESE THINGS.
WELL, IF THE CHANCE JUST HAPPENS TO FALL INTO MY LAP, I'M NOT ONE TO RE-FUSE.
...IT'S RUDE TO CONFUSE THE ONE YOU'RE INDEBTED TO.
WHEN IT COMES TO FAVORS...
Y-YUUTO ...
KYUUUN (TWINGE)
THAT'S ENOUGH! DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH RINKO!! I'M THE ONE YOU WANT, REMEMBER!?

HMPH. SO YOU'RE MORE LIKE A MAN NOW, ARE YOU?
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.
BUT...
OOF!!
DOGO (WHUMP)
YUUTO!?
...ONE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME IS...
...THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE THAN BEING ORDERED AROUND BY A MAN!
SASA, TAKE CARE OF THIS GIRL FOR ME.
PUN (PLUMP)
SASA (GIGGLE)
AAAW! NO FAIR GETTING HIM ALL TO YOURSELF, AGEHA.

ZA (ZIP)
ZA
WELL, I'LL BE TAKING YUUTO AMAKAWA OFF YOUR HANDS NOW.
ZA
WHY, YOU ...!!
PASHI (SNATCH)
HYUN (WHIP)
YOU'D ONLY BREAK HIM.
BESIDES, I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH THE KID
HAVE THAT GIRL TREAT YOU TO SOME-THING TASTY.
BITAN (SMOOSH)
PLAY WITH ME.
G-GET OFF! YOU'RE CRUSH-ING ME!!
YOU SOME KIND OF KONAKIJIJII?
BWOOP !?
BA (REACH)
WAIT ...?
NU (LOOM)

!!
DON'T WORRY, AGEHA'S NOT GONNA KILL YOUR FRIEND.
HOW RUDE! MY BELLY'S EMPTY, SO I'M REALLY LIGHT NOW.
GUNUNU (STRAIN)
LIAAAR! GET THE HECK OFFA MEEEE!
BUT MAYBE IT'S 'COS SHE FEELS INDEBTED TO HIM THAT SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING HIS LIFE ANYMORE.
AFTER THAT DAY, AGEHA WOULD ALWAYS GRUMBLE AND COMPLAIN WHEN THE TOPIC OF THAT BOY CAME UP.
FEEEED MEEEEE.
YOU'RE CRUSHING ME! MY GUTS ARE COMING OUT! I'M GIVING BIRTH!!
GYAAH! YOU'RE HEAVY!
...THIS IS JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH SHIZUKU!!
TARGETS YUUTO'S LIFE
LOSES THE INTENT TO KILL BUT KEEPS ON AFTER HIM
(?)
THEN...

SHOP
SLOOP
.....
WHY DO I FIND IT SO HARD TO FACE THE YOUNG LORD? IS THIS HOW MY LACK OF CONFIDENCE MANIFESTS ITSELF?
WHY THEN AM I LAZING ABOUT HERE?
SO LONG AS I HAVE THE YOUNG LORD...
...I MUST FIGHT FOR HIM NO MATTER THE OBSTACLE.
IN THIS BODY, I AM YET NIMBLE AND CAN WREAK DAMAGE WITH MY CLAWS.
I REALLY AM JUST A CAT.

I AM SO WEAK...
I NEVER REALIZED HOW FRAGILE I TRULY AM.
Meow, meow, meow! Meow, meow, meoooow! ♪
WHO IS IT?
Oh, Himari. It's me, Jinguuji.
PI (BEEP)
Meow, meow, meow! ♪
.....

That's what naughty pussycats get for hanging up after hearing who's on the other end.
...YOU SHEDEVIL. LONG-DISTANCE ATTACKS ARE RATHER COWARDLY, YOU KNOW.
(BACHII) (ZAP)
MROWR!
BY THE WAY, HOW'S YOUR HEALTH THESE DAYS?
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE TURNED INTO A CUTE LITTLE KITTEN, NOW WOULD YOU?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...?
(SUU) (GLEAM)
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Oh, quite. The young lord's penchant for young girls has blossomed thanks to it.
One look at my adorable little body sends him rolling on the floor in sheer ecstasy.
OH, REALLY ...
Do you like it?
...AH, I SEE. THIS WAS ALL YOUR DOING.
...I FEAR IT MIGHT BE A BIT TOO SMALL AND TIGHT FOR HIM.
ANY ADVICE?
I WILL NOT BEGRUDGE HIM THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS LATE-NIGHT CARNAL DESIRES, BUT...
I WOULDN'T GET SO FULL OF YOURSELF IF I WERE YOU, CAT.
GACHA (KACHAK)

...THEN WHY DID YOU PULL THIS LITTLE PRANK ON ME?
HE AND I ARE...BONDED ON A DEEPER LEVEL THAN THAT!
I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYBODY THAT YUUTO AMAKAWA ISN'T THAT KIND OF MAN!
BA (FLING)
...TCH!
SHE IS TOYING WITH ME.
.....
IT'S JUST A LITTLE FUN... IN GOOD TIME, YOU'LL REVERT BACK TO NORMAL.
When?
WELL, TAKE CARE.
BU (BOOP)

TOO BAD IT IS BUT FOR A LIMITED TIME.
SO GIVEN ENOUGH TIME, I WILL REVERT...
SHE HAD ME FOR A MOMENT.
I SHOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE YOUNG LORD FULL ENJOY-MENT OF THIS BODY...
YUU-CHAN... IF YOU REALLY END UP WITH A LOLITA COMPLEX ...
...I'LL HAVE TO REPROGRAM YOUR BRAIN WITH MAGIC.
HEE HEE HEE.
A FORCE FIELD HAS JUST BEEN ERECTED...
...AND NOT FAR FROM HERE!
ZOKU (CHILL)
THE SOONER I AM BACK TO NORMAL, THE BETTER!
I AM THE ONE WHO DECLARED I WAS NOT TO BE TREATED LIKE SOME PET!
WH-WHAT AM I THINKING!? I STILL WOULD NOT HAVE MY OFFENSIVE ABILITIES THAT WAY!
GORO
GORO (ROLL)

CHA (CHK)
DOKA (WHUD)
OOF!!
NOW THAT THE FORCE FIELD'S UP...
...THERE WON'T BE ANY INTERRUPTIONS IN THIS WORLD BUILT JUST FOR TWO.
SHNK
IN OTHER WORDS, NOW IT'S MY TURN! ♡

SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO TO ME?
SHEESH, ENOUGH WITH ALL THE QUESTIONS. I'LL DO WHAT I WANT, PERIOD.
NOT LIKELY, HUH?
I TECHNI-CALLY OWE YOU MY LIFE, SO I WON'T BE KILLING YOU. AT LEAST, IT'S NOT LIKELY.
OH, YOU DON'T. BUT DON'T WORRY.
...WHEN DO I GET MY TURN?
SO...
...HOW FAR HAVE YOU GOTTEN WITH THE CRIMSON BLADE?
EXCUSE ME...?

"EXCUSE ME?" MY ASS. YOU TWO ARE MASTER AND SERVANT.
YOU COULD ORDER HER TO FULFILL YOUR EVERY DESIRE.
HOLD IT, HOLD IT, HOLD IT!!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT OR GIVEN HER THOSE KINDS OF ORDERS!
NOTHING?
JIRO (GUARE)
UH...
NOTHING AT ALL?
...NOTHING MORE THAN A KISS AND A FONDLE.
A KISS! AND A FONDLE!?
WHAT ARE YOU, IN JUNIOR HIGH!?

YOU'RE SO NAIVE. THIS CONVER-SATION'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
GASHI (GRAB)
GYU (SQUISH)
I FIGURED I'D HAVE TO DO LOTS OF RAUNCHIER THINGS WITH YOU TO SHOW HOW SEXUALLY SUPERIOR TO HER I AM.
WAI...
SO IF NOT THE CRIMSON BLADE, ARE YOU GETTING IT ON WITH THE TWILIGHT MOON, THEN?
GUNYU (SMOOSH)
TW-TWILIGHT MOON?
THE JINGUUJI GIRL.
I'VE NEVER MET HER, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH HER.

KUESU...
KUESU...
ALL I EVER DO IS HURT KUESU.
.....
!!
CHUPU (SMOOCH)
KUCHU (SMOOCH)
NURU (LICK)
PICHA (SLURP)
WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
IT'S JUST A KISS. NOTHING TO SOUND SO DISGUSTED ABOUT.
YOU LOOKING TO DIE?

SO NOW I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU THINGS YOU NEVER EVEN IMAGINED.
KISSING AND FONDLING...
...ARE AS FAR AS YOU'VE GOTTEN WITH THE MONSTER CAT.
GIN (GLINT)
OH... NO.
!!
WHAT KIND OF DEMON SLAYER LOOKS AN AYAKASHI STRAIGHT IN THE EYE?
JUST MY LUCK THAT THE CRIMSON BLADE'S AWAY.
GURA (FALL)
I'M A HINO-ENMA.
ZA (RUSTLE)
YUUTO AMAKAWA, IF I'M GOING TO BE DRINKING YOUR BLOOD, PAYMENT IN KIND IS THE LEAST I CAN DO!
NOW LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES FULLY WITHOUT THAT JEALOUS CAT BOTHERING US. ♡

BASHI (ZAP)
I AM SO NEAR THE YOUNG LORD AND YET SENSE NOT A TRACE OF DEMON POWER.
THIS STATE REALLY DOES MAKE EVEN THE SIMPLEST TASK DIFFICULT...
KUH ...!
ドサッ
DOSA (THUD)

!
CAT...
WHAT DO YOU WANT? I AM SOMEWHAT OCCUPIED AT PRESENT.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT... YOU KNOW.
PIKU PIER
MIZUCHI ...
...AND THE KASHA.
EARLIER, WHEN YOU ANNOUNCED THAT YOU COULDN'T FIGHT IN THAT FORM AND FLED FROM YUUTO...
...YOU RAN AWAY, YOU KNOW.

.....
AND NOW... YUUTO'S BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY AND TRAPPED WITHIN THAT FORCE FIELD... YOU KNOW.
JUST BECAUSE YOUR BODY'S CHANGED...YOUR CONFIDENCE AS HIS BODY-GUARD HAS WAVERED...
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO FINICKY...
YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
THE WAY IT HAS THROWN ME INTO SUCH SELF-DOUBT...
...MAKES ME UNABLE TO EVEN FACE RINKO.
THIS RECENT INCIDENT SHOWED ME JUST HOW WEAK AND POWERLESS I REALLY AM.
BASA (FLAP)

IF I HAVE NO SWORD, I SHALL USE MY CLAWS. IF I HAVE NO CLAWS, I SHALL USE MY FANGS. IF I HAVE NO FANGS, I SHALL USE MY VERY BODY AS A BLADE.
I AM THE BLADE THAT SHALL SLAUGHTER ALL ENEMIES, THE SHIELD THAT SHALL DEFLECT ANY DISASTER.

I'M GOING TO BREAK DOWN THAT FORCE FIELD NOW...
BASHA
YOU CAN SIT THERE AND TWIDDLE YOUR THUMBS FOR ALL I CARE... YOU KNOW.
BASHA (SPLISH)
SHIZUKU.
I KNOW... YOU KNOW.
LET HER BOAST AND BRAG...
ZA (STYLE)
HMPH!!
I SHALL DO NO SUCH THING.
HYUUUUU (WOOOO)
BA (FWICK)

YOUNG LORD, I AM COMING FOR YOU!
THE BLOOD OF A DEMON SLAYER.
ONE SIP MIGHT PUT ME OVER THE EDGE... ♡

RINKO-SAN, I SAY, YOU DO KEEP SOME MIGHTY STRANGE COMPANY.
MISS! ONE MORE PARFAIT PLEASE!
HOW MUCH ARE YOU PLANNING TO EAT!?

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, ALL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO THINK ABOUT IS DRINKING YOUR BLOOD.
AND I NEVER GET THIS WORKED UP OVER A GUY, SO CONSIDER IT AN HONOR.

MY BITE DOESN'T HAVE THE BOTHER-SOME SIDE EFFECTS OF A VAMPIRE'S, SO NO WORRIES...
KUWA (GLEAM)
KABUCHU (SHINK)
FURU (TREMBLE)
CHUU (SUCK)
NN... NN.
NN ...

SO THIS IS THE BLOOD OF A DEMON SLAYER...
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
...JUST ONE MORE LITTLE TASTE. ♡
CHUUUU
PICHA (SMACK)
AH-HA... IT'S SO DELICIOUS...
PURU
PURU (TREMBLE)
JIN (TWITCH)
PAH!
NNPH...
NN HAH!
CHUU
HAH... AH.
OH NO. THIS IS...
...MAKING MY BODY BURN UP... ♡
JIN

HOW VULGAR ...
DON (BOOM)
THE HINO-ENMA, EH...?
... YOU KNOW.
BACHAN (KASPLASH)
BASHA (SPLASH)

...YOU'RE THE SNAKE SASA SPOKE OF.
PTOOEY!
ZAN (ZSH)
WHAT, DID YOU STEAL THE DEMON CAT'S POSITION AS BODYGUARD?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS... YOU KNOW.
BASHU (SPLOOSH)
ばしゃっ
NII (SNEER)
YOU INTERRUPTED A MAN AND WOMAN'S PLAYTIME, YOU RUDE LOLITA SNAKE.
TRUE. IT ISN'T.
HOW RUDE... YOU KNOW.
GET LOST.
DA (DASH)

I'LL MAKE MIST OUT OF YOU!!
WATER CAN PENETRATE ANYTHING...
ZUDON (ZOOSH)
SHA (SWISH)
PAAN (SPLASH)
MISHI (SNAP)
GOKI (CRACK)
DOS (STAB)
...IT'S... TOO... LATE...
YUUTO'S BLOOD HAS MADE HER MORE POWER-FUL...
!!

HEH-HEH... I'M ALL FLUSHED AND ANTSY NOW.
I COULD GO COUNTLESS TIMES... FOREVER IF I WANTED.
DOBOON (KASPLOOSH)
HFF!
...DAMN.
I AM SO CLOSE...
HFF!
YOUNG LORD.

I THOUGHT NOT OF MY MASTER WHILST I WALLOWED IN SELF-PITY...
YOUNG LORD... I REALLY AM A FOOLISH CAT.
BUT AS A BODY-GUARD, AS THE YOUNG LORD'S CAT...
...AND AS THE NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE, I SHALL SAVE MY MASTER.
I DO NOT PARTICU-LARLY WANT TO, BUT...
YOU REALLY ARE A LITTLE SQUIRT NOW
WHAT...? I DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR HELP.
CRIMSON BLADE.
!

THIS IS...!
SHU (FWIP)
...THIS IS FOR YOU.
PASHA (CATCH)
DOKUN (BADUM)
THE YOUNG LORD'S ...!?
I CAN FEEL THE YOUNG LORD...!
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
THE LIGHT FERRY... THE YOUNG LORD'S FEELINGS ARE TRANSMITTED THROUGH IT.
YES.

I DID NOT HAVE TO BEAR IT ALL ON MY SHOUL-DERS.
EVEN WHEN PARTED, THE YOUNG LORD AND I...

HURRY UP AND GO.
HMPH. DO AS YOU LIKE.
ZASHU (ZIP)
SHOW ME THE BOND BETWEEN THE AMA-KAWAS AND THE CRIMSON BLADE.
YOUNG LORD...YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO ALTER OBJECTS LIKE THIS AS WELL.
KIIN (VWEEE)
IT'S BEEN BRO-KEN.
NOT LIKE WHEN THE SNAKE BROKE IN. THIS TIME IT'S BEEN SLICED CLEAN THROUGH...
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
THIS COULD ONLY MEAN —!!

SUSHAA! (SWOOSH)
I KNEW IT! SO YOU SHOW YOURSELF AT LAST, DEMON CAT!!
...HUH?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? ...YOU PLAYING DRESS UP?
CHINMARI (TINY)
ちんまり
I DO NOT WANT TO HEAR IT!!
YOU JUST CANNOT LEAVE THE YOUNG LORD ALONE AND HAVE COME BACK FOR HIS LIFE, IS THAT IT, HINOEN-MA?
HIS LIFE? ...NO, NOT QUITE.
HIS BLOOD IS JUST TOO GOOD.
KILLING HIM WOULD BE A WASTE. ♡
YOU SUNK YOUR TEETH INTO THE YOUNG LORD...
NOT EVEN DEATH IS ENOUGH TO ATONE FOR THAT CRIME.
ざわ…
ZAWA (WHISH)

MEEEOW
BA (RAISE)
ZA (SHK)
SO YOU ARE MORE POWERFUL NOW THAT YOU HAVE SIPPED THE BLOOD OF THE YOUNG LORD...
BUT I HAVE COME EQUIPPED WITH THE YOUNG LORD'S INTENTIONS.
THIS ISN'T THE SEASON FOR YOU TO BE IN HEAT, YOU MOLLY!
A PET AS PUNY AS YOU REALLY MEANS TO CHALLENGE ME?
SSSHHH... YOU KNOW.
...SHIZUKU?
UH...

...HIMARI !?
!!
...THAT'S RIGHT, THE HINOENMA HAD ME!
YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD TO THE HINO-ENMA... DON'T TRY TO MOVE... YOU KNOW.
I HAVE TO STOP THEM...!
WHY... YOU KNOW.
THE CAT CAN... TAKE CARE OF HER-SELF.
THIS BODY MEANS NOTHING.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT AYAKASHI WE CAN TALK TO.
...IS IT... BECAUSE SHE HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF A GIRL...YOU KNOW?
I AM THE ONE WITH THE YOUNG LORD! THAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY POWER!!
I DON'T WANT HIMARI TO FIGHT IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO!!
THAT'S NOT IT!

DAMN... I USED UP TOO MUCH POWER BEFORE MY BODY COULD ACCLIMATE TO THE BLOOD...
TCH! SHE'S A FAST ONE.
AT THIS RATE...
AH... GUH!!
(LIKE A THROB)
.....!?
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
HIMARI, DON'T!!
NOW IS MY CHANCE!!

DOKA (CLANG)
DOKA
!!
WHAT THE!?
TAN (SKIP)
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU!

GASHI (GRAB)
MREOW!
GUSHU (SNIFFLE)
Y-YOUNG LORD!
COME ON, HIMARI. CALM DOWN.
THE IPPON-DATARA!
IF YOU INTER-FERE, I WILL SLICE YOU THROUGH AS WELL!!
HISSSSS!
BIKU! (JOLT)
MISS KITTY FRIGHTENS ME!
WH-WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA..... SASA?
RINKO FILLED MY BELLY RIGHT UP.
SO I'M GRANTING HER ONE WISH.
TO STOP THIS FIGHT.
OF ALL THE... WHY ARE AYAKASHI SO QUICK TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH?

THAT'S THE LAST THING YUUTO EVER WANTS. EVEN FOR HIS ENEMY.
AND HIMARI, WITH YOUR BODY ALL OUT OF SORTS, DON'T ACT SO RASHLY!
.....
YOU ARE TOO SOFT, YOUNG LORD.
THAT IS WHY I, AS YOUR SERVANT, AM SO SEVERE IN YOUR PLACE.
BURA (DANGLE)
A BIG SOFTY
YOU THINK I'M SOFT?
...I'M NOT LIKE YOU, DEMON CAT.
!
I'LL LISTEN TO SASA THIS TIME AND LET YOU OFF THE HOOK, BUT NEXT TIME I'LL SUCK YOU DRY!
I'LL LATCH RIGHT ONTO YOUR JUGULAR, SO MAKE SURE YOUR NECK'S NICE AND CLEAN FOR ME!!

AND RINKO AND SHIZUKU TOO.
UH-HUH, UH-HUH
I HAVE HIMARI WITH ME.
YOUNG LORD...
WHY, YOU FIEND! YOU ATTACKED FIRST, AND NOW YOU ARE QUITTING HALFWAY!? HOW SELFISH CAN YOU BE!
MROWR!!
NEXT TIME, I'LL RESIST YOU MORE MYSELF.
BUT DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET TO DRINK MY BLOOD SO EASILY.
ALL RIGHT.
.....
SPOILED BRAT.
...BUT IF YOU EVENTUALLY GET MY NECK, JUST KEEP IT SHORT OF FATAL, PLEASE.
.....

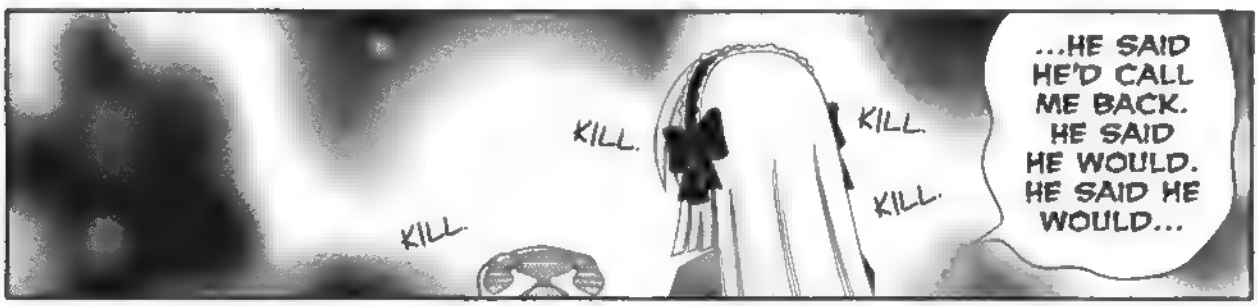
I WAS JUST...
YOU CAN BE KIND TO YOUR ENEMY, BUT BE MODERATE ABOUT IT, YOUNG LORD.
THOUGH I DO NOT MIND AT ALL WHEN YOU SHOW KINDNESS TO ME...
!!
HI-HIMARI, YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL!?
NN... AH.
MUNYU (SQUISH)
NOT SO ROUGH. YOU ARE MAKING ME MEWL...
AHN. ♡
UWAH! SORRY!
PIKU (PERK)
GAAAH!!

THIS ONE BEARS GRUDGES ...
...I'LL SOAK YOU REAL GOOD NEXT TIME, SO LOOK FORWARD TO IT...YOU KNOW.
CHIRO (FLICK) CHIRO
SASA, WE'RE GOING.
COMING, HEE-HEE!
HAAAH. WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR HABIT OF BLIND KINDNESS, YUUTO.
SHEESH.
NOW I'VE GOT TWO MORE RIVALS TO WORRY ABOUT.
RIVALS?
H-HEY, NO EAVESDROPPING!
YOU SURE PLAY THE FIELD, MISTER.
AGEHA MAY BE A CONTESTANT, BUT...
...SASA HERE'S A BOY! ♡
WE ONLY PICKED A SKIRT 'COS I CAN STILL USE IT WHEN I GO BACK TO HAVING ONE LEG

EH.....!?
HOW LIKE YOU, YOUNG LORD. NOT ONLY DOES ONE'S APPEARANCE MEAN NOTHING TO YOU...
...BUT NEITHER DOES ONE'S GENDER.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
HI-MARI.
BYE-BYE! DAIDARA-BOCCHI SENDS HIS REGARDS!
...I JUST DON'T GET AYAKASHI.
BUN
BUN (WAVE)
...I ONLY JEST.

TAKE THIS.
FOOL! 'TIS NOT ABOUT YOUR LOOKS!!
THE YOUNG LORD KNOWS THAT I ALONE AM HIS BEST PARTNER !!
YOU SHOULD BECOME THE TYPICAL MALE WHO ENJOYS THE STRAIGHT-LINED BODY OF A LITTLE GIRL...YOU KNOW.
NOTHING BEATS A LOLITA... YOU KNOW.
IN THE END I WAS ABSOLUTELY HELPLESS AGAIN...
THE CAT DROPPED HER LOLITA FORM BECAUSE SHE'S SO STUPID..YOU KNOW.

MEANWHILE, KUESU-SAMA...



TOWARD THE END OF AUTUMN, WHEN THE LEAVES BEGIN TO TURN, THE SCHOOL HOLDS THE TOURYOU FESTIVAL.
TOURYOU FESTIVAL
WELCOME !!
...IT'S THE BIG EVENT THAT LIBERATES US FROM THE DAILY GRIND OF LESSONS... SO WE ALL REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
IT'S JUST YOUR TYPICAL SCHOOL FESTIVAL, THE KIND YOU'D FIND ANYWHERE, BUT...
RINKO, IN PARTICULAR, LOVES FESTIVALS, AND EVERY YEAR SHE ENJOYS BOTH THE PARTICIPATION AND CONSUMER SIDES TO THEIR FULLEST.
THIS YEAR IS NO DIFFERENT.
I'VE HIT UP JUST ABOUT EVERY BOOTH
EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE EVER-CURIOUS AND EAGER CAT, HIMARI, WILL BE JOINING US TOO!
BYON (STRETCH)
YOUNG LORD, I ONLY HAVE THE SWIMSUIT I BOUGHT THIS SUMMER AND MY SCHOOL SWIMSUIT.
WHICH SHALL I WEAR ON THE MORROW?

UM, HIMARI-SAN. I DON'T SEE WHERE SWIM-SUITS COME INTO ALL THIS...
I UNDER-STAND WE WILL NOT BE ENTERING ANY WATER, YET THERE WILL BE SOME SORT OF DANCE FOR GOOD HAR-VESTS?
I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH THINGS.
SWI-SWIM-SUIT...?
I AM MOST INTERESTED IN THIS CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
I AM WELL VERSED IN THE WEARING OF YUKATA AT A FESTIVAL, BUT I WAS SURPRISED ABOUT THE SWIMSUIT PART TOO.
PIRA (FLAP)
THE MISS TOURYOU CONTEST?
IT'S THIS...YOU KNOW.
I AM SURPRISED THAT EVEN FITS YOU
...YOU DO NOT EVEN ATTEND THIS SCHOOL, SO WHO ARE YOU TO PARTICIPATE, MIZUCHI?
I'M LOOKING TO STAND OUT ONSTAGE WITH THIS BOLD SWIMWEAR... YOU KNOW.
A FELLOW BY THE NAME OF MASAKI WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE CONTEST INVITED ME... YOU KNOW.
JAPAN'S TEEMING WITH MEN THAT HAVE A LOLITA COMPLEX... YOU KNOW.
CHOOOON (BADUUUNG)
...WHOA, SHIZUKU!?

WAIT, HIMARI'S GONNA BE IN THIS BEAUTY CONTEST?
AND IN A BATHING SUIT...?
YUUTO. YUUTO...
OH DEAR.
I WAS HOPING TO SURPRISE THE YOUNG LORD BY NOT TELLING HIM UNTIL TODAY, BUT I WAS ALSO APPROACHED BY MASAKI.
T-TAIZOU, YOU ASS...
AH.
UH- OH... YOU KNOW.
THIS SWIMSUIT... SLIPS OFF MY PRIVATE PARTS WITH THE SMALLEST OF MOVEMENTS... YOU KNOW.
BUCHI (SNAP)
JUST LOOK. YOU KNOW
POROOOON (FALL)
UWAH WAH WAH WAH WAH!?
OF COURSE IT IS GOING TO SLIP OFF WHEN YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING MORE THAN WOUND A STRING AROUND A WASHBOARD!
A STRAIGHT-AS-AN-ARROW SNAKE LIKE YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!!
.....
GET LOST, CAT...YOU KNOW.
STOP IT, STOP IT, STOP IT!!

MENAGERIE 27: THE PRETTY MISS KITTY FESTIVAL

TOU
RYOU
AUTUMN LEAF BATTLE
M-1
TOURYOU GROUP
MM-FU-FU-FU-FU! ♡
OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS
PING-PONG
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS EVER AT EVERY ACTIVITY THIS FESTIVAL HAS TO OFFER, RINKO.
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
WHEN IT COMES TO FESTIVAL STUFF, I'LL BEAT THAT CAT AND THAT LOLITA ANY DAY!
SIGN: YAKI—

BUT THIS COTTON CANDY YOU TREATED ME TO IS THE ICING ON THE CAKE.
RINKO, WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!
WE GIVE UP!
THEY ALL COWERED BEFORE MY PROWESS...
AND FREE OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS AFTER POUNDING THE PING-PONG TEAM IN THEIR FIVE-MINUTE FREE-FOR-ALL.
I GOT A FREE MEAL FROM THE BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR THREE-POINTER CHALLENGE.
I GOT THIS MASK FROM THE SHOOTING GALLERY.
HMPH
THEY WERE ALL IN TEARS, YEAH...

THAT'S NOT IT.
I LIKE GETTING TO HAVE YOU ALL TO MYSELF LIKE THIS ONCE IN A WHILE.
SU (SWF)
YOU WIN EVERYTHING FOR YOURSELF, SO IT WAS THE LEAST THAT I COULD DO.
IT WAS NOTHING.

NOW THAT I KNOW CURSES AND AYAKASHI EXIST, PLEASE DON'T JOKE ABOUT THAT STUFF.
DENDERO (BLOOD)
でんでろ
DERO
でろ
でろ
DERO
IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME SPECIAL TIME LIKE YOU DO THAT CAT AND THAT SNAKE, I'LL CURSE YOU, UNDERSTOOD...?

...JUST KIDDING. ♡
I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GLOOMY CHICK.
I TOOK A PEEK JUST NOW, AND THERE WAS QUITE A CROWD...
YEAH, EVEN THOUGH THE SHINING STARS OF A SCHOOL FESTIVAL ARE ALWAYS THE REFRESHMENT BOOTHS AND HAUNTED HOUSE...
JUST AS THE CLASS PRESIDENT PLANNED.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HIMARI JOINING THIS AFTERNOON'S BEAUTY CONTEST?
YEAH, THEY'RE EXPLAINING THE RULES TO ALL THE PARTICI-PANTS NOW.
LAST YEAR'S WINNER— MURASAKI KIRISHIMA
THE COMMITTEE FOR THE MISS TOURYOU CONTEST
OUR CLASS JUST DID A DISPLAY, SO MY DUTIES WERE EASY.
2D DREAMWORLD
COSPLAY GIRLS WILL SHOW YOU AROUND! ♡
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN, THE "EVOLUTION AND STUDY OF LIGHT NOVEL HEROES & HEROINES IN RECENT YEARS" OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S ROUGH, RINKO.
ON TO OUR NEXT DESTINATION! I'LL BE HELPING OUT THE TENNIS CLUB IN THE AFTERNOON, SO LET'S GO ALL OUT BEFORE THEN!!

.....
HMM.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT THAT CAT PRINCESS COULD TAKE THE PRIZE.
...YEAH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU ENTER, RINKO?
HUH? ME?
NO WAY, NO HOW! I MAY RULE THE FESTIVAL, BUT I'M NOT BEAUTY CONTEST MATERIAL!!
WATA (FLAIL)
WATA
わた
わた
? YOU REALLY THINK SO?
SO LONG AS I'M YUUTO'S NUMBER ONE...
...THAT'S ALL I NEED.
YUUTO, DON'T YOU KNOW THERE ARE THINGS EVEN I CAN'T GET ON MY OWN?
YOU WIN EVERYTHING FOR YOURSELF...
C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!
W-WAIT UP, RINKO!

YO! MASTER! HAVING FUN?
TAIZOU ...
にま〜
NUMAAA (GRIIIIN)
I'M ON THE COMMITTEE OF A FAR MORE SUBLIME AND IMPORTANT EVENT.
OH, THAT. I LEFT IT TO THE CLASS PRESIDENT.
YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN UP FOR ANY OF YOUR CLASS DUTIES ...
AFTER SHE HELPED US OUT ON OUR SKETCH OUTING, SHE HAD TIME ON HER HANDS... OH YEAH! AND LIZ-SAN FROM CAFÉ RELISH'LL BE IN IT TOO!
BINGO.
WE'VE GOTTEN SPONSORSHIP FROM THE IRIYA SHOPPING CENTER FOR THIS YEAR'S BEAUTY CONTEST, SO WE RECRUITED GIRLS FROM OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL AS WELL.
LIZ TOO!?
...I DON'T MIND SO MUCH ABOUT HIMARI, BUT DID YOU TALK SHIZUKU INTO ENTERING TOO?

WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE WHO YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH.
!
ZUUUUN (LOOOOM)
...DON'T FORGET THE "-SAN," YOU BLOCK-HEAD!!
DO YOU ALWAYS REFER TO GIRLS BY THEIR NICK-NAMES!?
NO, UH.....
YUUTO...
I'VE GOT DUTIES TO ATTEND TO, SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
I CAN'T CONDONE THIS.
GETTING TO ENJOY AND APPRECIATE A WHOLE THRONG OF CUTE GIRLS IS ANY SANE AND HEALTHY BOY'S DEEPEST DESIRE.
I'M JUST GONNA ENJOY THIS VISUAL FEAST.

I MEAN, WHY DID HE HAVE TO GET HIMARI, SHIZUKU, AND LIZ INVOLVED ...?
AND IN A SWIMSUIT COMPETI-TION OF ALL THINGS...!
ALL THOSE GUYS WILL BE LOOKING AT HIMARI IN A BATHING SUIT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS EMPTY CLASSROOM?
WHERE IS RINKO?
ﾅﾅﾝ..... GUHU (CLENCH)
YOUNG LORD?
DON'T TELL ME I'M JEALOUS ...?
WH-WHAT WAS THAT ...?

YOU ARE AWFULLY LAID-BACK.
NI (SMIRK)
...I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
SHE WENT TO HELP THE TENNIS CLUB OUT WITH THEIR CAFÉ.
SO YOU ARE JUST TAKING IT EASY, ARE YOU?
HAS THE CLAMOR OF THE FESTIVAL WORN YOU OUT?
OH! LOOK AT THEM ALL!
HM? OH, RIGHT.
A LOT OF PEOPLE SHOWED UP FOR THE FESTIVAL.
WRONG SPECIES.
OPEN YOUR MIND, AND TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THEM TOO, YOUNG LORD.

THAT CHILD THERE IS A TANTAN-KORO-RIN.
AND THERE ARE NOBU-SUMA.
TOU RYOU FES
AND A NUPPE-PPOU.
SQUID YAKISOBA
STRONG MAN
ARM LIFT
COMMON FOLK CANNOT SEE THEM.
...THERE SURE ARE A LOT.
AYAKASHI DO NOT ONLY APPEAR IN THE MOUNTAINS OR BESIDE BODIES OF WATER.
WHAT THEY PERCEIVE LOOKS MORE AKIN TO SOME SORT OF DISPLAY.
FOR YEARS, THEY HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE MERRY-MAKING OF HUMANS.
THEY ARE HARMLESS.
ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS, YOUNG LORD.

AND YOU ARE A DEMON SLAYER.
YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT THE AYAKASHI WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE ARE NOT ALL HARMLESS.
THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU MUST DECIDE TO ABANDON THIS PEACEFUL LIFE AND FULFILL YOUR DESTINY.
SO THAT EVEN AFTER YOU MUST RELINQUISH YOUR VALUES, YOU HAVE NO REGRETS.
ENJOY THE PRESENT WHILE YOU ARE ABLE.
LIKE THEY SAY, BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY!
ALL I AM SAYING IS BE PREPARED FOR UNFORESEEN EVENTS.
.....
ぽん
PON
(PAT)

HM, LOOK AT THE TIME.
I HAD BEST RETURN TO THE PLAZA.
AH...
HIMARI..... UM...
WHY...DID YOU ENTER THE BEAUTY CONTEST?
HM?
I MEAN...
...I'M JUST SURPRISED... THAT YOU'D PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...YOU REALLY ARE SHARP, YOUNG LORD.
THE MISS TOURYOU CONTEST?
YEP! WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO COMPETE TOO, NOIHARA-SAN!

SORRY, NOT INTERESTED.
WAAH! WAIT, WAIT!
HM. SO IT IS AN EVENT IN WHICH THE LADY WITH THE FINEST APPEARANCE, CLASS, GOOD NATURE, AND GRACE IS CHOSEN, IS IT?
WHAT IF YOU GET SOMETHING GOOD WHEN YOU WIN?
SINCE THE SHOPPING CENTER ACROSS FROM THE STATION'S SPONSORING IT, THE GRAND PRIZE IS A GIFT CERTIFICATE GOOD FOR ¥10,000!!
GU (CLENCH)
PITA (PAUSE)
WOULD THAT INCLUDE SANMON-DOU...?
THAT SWEET-SHOP? YEAH, OF COURSE.
...VERY WELL.
I SUPPOSE I COULD PARTAKE IN IT.

THE YOUNG LORD...
AND I'M SURE YUUTO WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR YOU'LL BE IN IT TOO, NOIHARA-SAN!
GOOD, GOOD! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
I AM SIMPLY DOING IT FOR THE DUMPLINGS AND STEAMED BUNS, ALL RIGHT?
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.
IF YOUR CAT WON FIRST PLACE, YOU WOULD HAVE REASON TO BE PROUD, NO?
WAS I MISTAKEN?
PLEASED? ...ME?
AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE PLEASED IF I CAME IN FIRST.
YEAH, BUT, HIMARI... I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH YOU BEING MADE INTO SOME KIND OF SIDESHOW...
PURUWUN (JIGGLE)
TAIZOU, THAT JERK...

SHURU (SLIDE)
シュル……
YOUNG LORD, YOU MAY HAVE A LOOK.
.....
H-HUH?
WAI—!

HIMARI...?
BEHOLD YOUR CAT.
HAVING ALREADY ENTERED THE RUNNING, I AM AIMING FOR THE TOP.
BUT IF THIS BE NOT YOUR WISH, THEN I WILL WITH-DRAW.
EVEN FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, HIMARI'S PUTTING MY FEELINGS FIRST...
YOU MAY LAUGH AT YOUR PLAIN KITTY FOR BEING SO VAIN, BUT I ONLY WANT YOU TO BE PROUD OF ME.
PROUD OF YOU...
...WHILE I WAS JUST THINKING OF MYSELF...
I UNDER-STAND, HIMARI...
GYU (HUG)
SO GO FOR IT... AND WIN FIRST PLACE!!
GU (PUSH)

BI
(TUG)
PORON
(SLIP)
AH!
HER TOP CAUGHT.

MROWR...
...UH, WAIT, HIMARI. THIS WAS AN ACCI-DENT...
MROOOOOWR!
A CAT?
Now to crown the winner of this year's Miss Touryou beauty contest!
Intro-ducing your queen ...!!

The tea maid at Café Relish in the Iriya Shopping Center—
Lizlet L. Chelsie-chan!!
TCH
WAAAAH!
BUT WHERE'S MY GRAND PRIZE OF YUUTO-SAN?
KYAH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SO...
ほぃ
3.....
BORO (FLOP)
...WHAT EXACTLY LANDED HIM IN THIS MESS?
I AM SO DEEPLY ASHAMED.
DOYOOON (DROOP)
BUT WHEN THE YOUNG LORD SO BRAZENLY TORE MY TOP OFF, I COULD NOT HELP IT...
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
SHIRE (SHRUG)
HRMM...
YOUNG LORD... I ALSO WANT TO BE PROUD OF YOU AS THE DEMON SLAYER WHOM I SERVE...
...BUT PERHAPS I EXPECT TOO MUCH OF YOU...?
GESHI (STOMP).
GESHI
GESHI

CLOSE
WELL, LIZ-CHAN, THANKS FOR CLOSING UP SHOP TONIGHT.
YES, SIR. GOOD WORK TODAY.
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME NOW!
PHEW!
MY NAME IS LIZLET L. CHELSIE, AND I'M AN ENGLISH-BORN CUTE AND DAINTY TEACUP SPIRIT (SELF-PROCLAIMED).
TO-MORROW'S SPECIALS ARE THE EARL GREY WITH ROGER'S BRONZE LEAF FLOWERS AND THE ROSE HIP TEA, AND.....
I CURRENTLY WORK AS A LIVE-IN MAID AT THIS HERE CAFÉ RELISH.

AND I RESIDE IN MY OWN PRIVATE ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON NILGIRI TEA LEAVES. BUT TOMORROW'S SUNDAY, SO MAYBE WE'LL HAVE JUST ENOUGH
TON (TMP)
TON
THE OWNER HAS A WIFE AND CHILDREN TO GO HOME TO, SO I'M ALL BY MYSELF AFTER WE CLOSE FOR THE DAY.
...BACK IN EDINBURGH, I NEVER REMOVED MY MAID UNIFORM, NOT EVEN AT NIGHT. INSTEAD, I REVERTED BACK TO MY ORIGINAL FORM AS A TEACUP...
MY MAID OUTFIT—
WHEN I STRIP OUT OF THESE CLOTHES...
...BECAUSE I WAS AWARE THAT I WAS NOT ACTUALLY HUMAN.
BUT SINCE COMING HERE TO JAPAN AND ARRIVING IN THE OWNER'S HANDS...
...I SPEND A BRIEF TIME NOT BEING A MAID.

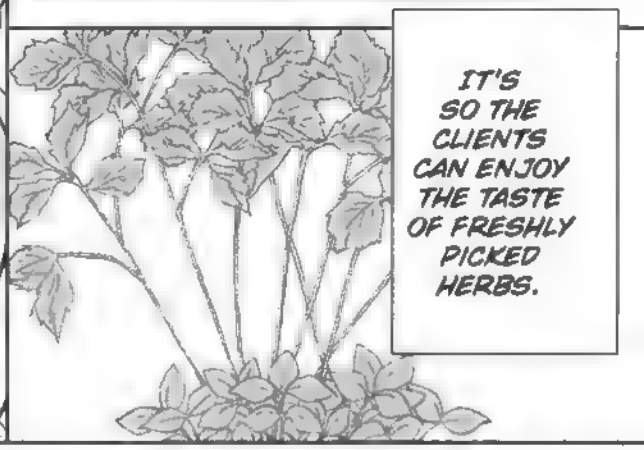
...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE BEEN TREATED AS A NORMAL PERSON BY THOSE AROUND ME, WHICH HAS CAUSED SOMETHING TO CHANGE INSIDE OF ME.
...I FEEL ATTRACTED TO A HUMAN BOY. ...I M-MEAN, I LIKE HIM...
BO (BLUSH)
Y-YUUTO-SAN! I AM YOUR MAID, AND YOU ARE MY MASTER!
I WILL SERVE YOU IN ALL WAYS, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY...
GORO (ROLL)
KYAH! WAAAH!
GASHAAAN (CRASH)
A MAID SHOULD SERVE ONLY ONE MASTER FOR THE DURATION OF HER TIME ON EARTH.

WAKE UP, LIZ, YOU TEACUP SPIRIT.
I FEEL CERTAIN THAT YOU WOULD SLEEP THROUGH AN EARTHQUAKE.
ZZZ
WAKE UP, AND PICK THE HERBS.
I KNOW NOT ABOUT THESE WESTERN HERBAL PRACTICES.
AH... OH, NOT THAT, YUUTO-SAN...
YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH THAAAT... ♡
BIKU (TWITCH)
ZZZ
NADE (RUB)
なで
NADE
EEEE!?
ZOKU (CHILL)
NOOOO... ♡
BEROOON (LICK)
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
ZOKU

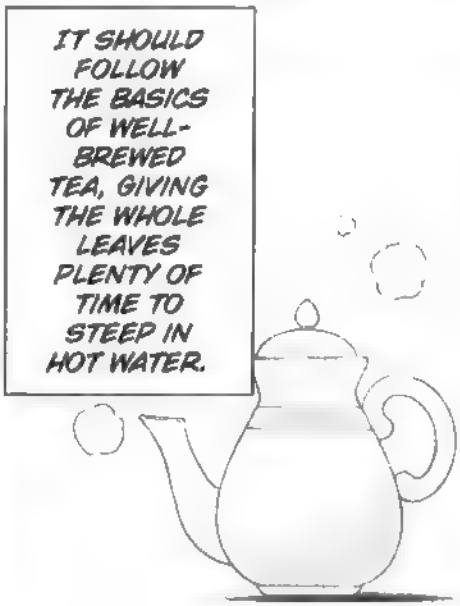
...HUH? HIMARI-SAN?
'TIS SUNDAY, SO I HAVE THE MORNING SHIFT.
KURU
KURU (TWIRL)
YOU CANNOT CALL YOURSELF A MAID IF YOU SLEEP IN LATER THAN A CAT.
...THAT'S VERY FRAGILE, SO PLEASE HANDLE MY BODY WITH MORE CARE ...!
...ALSO, THE YOUNG LORD SAID HE WOULD BE COMING BY LATER.
PAAAA (GLOOOW)
はぁぁぁ
YUUTO-SAN'S COMING TO SEE ME...!?
FOOL! THE YOUNG LORD IS ONLY COMING FOR THE CAT-EARED MAID!!
HISSSS!
EEEEEK!!
HIMARI-SAN CAN BE SO FRIGHTENING...
THOUGH DEEP DOWN, SHE'S A GOOD CAT

B-BUT OH HOW I WOULD LOVE TO SERVE YUUTO-SAN MY OWN PERSONAL M-MILK TEA...!
LIZ, WE ARE OUT OF SOME TEA LEAVES, YOU LAZY MAID.

WITH PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER, I PLANTED AND RAISED THIS HERB GARDEN BEHIND THE CAFÉ.


IT'S SO THE CLIENTS CAN ENJOY THE TASTE OF FRESHLY PICKED HERBS.

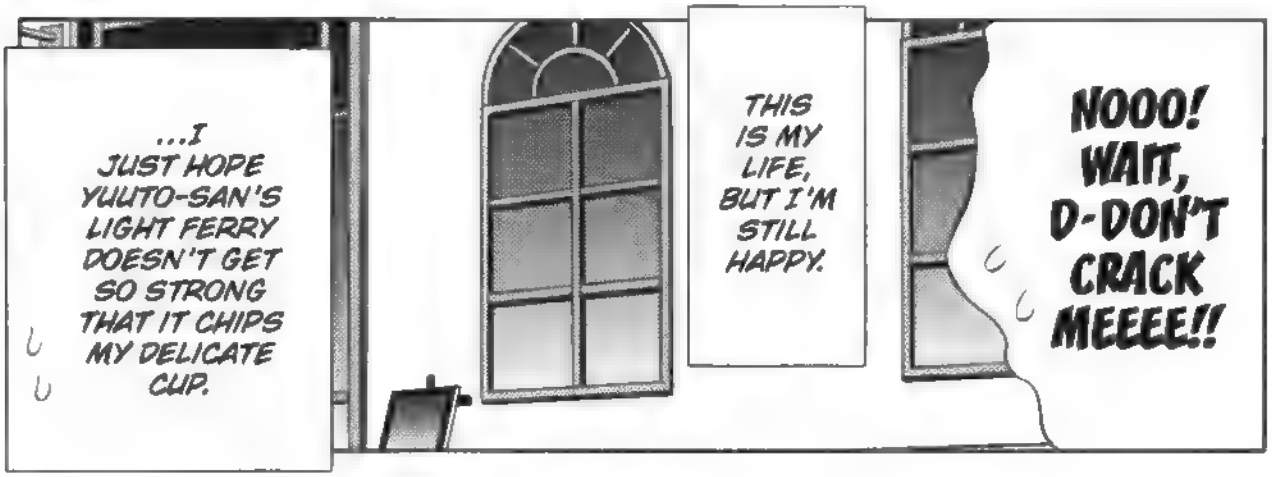
SO THAT WILL BE KEEMUN TEA, STRAIGHT UP.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH YOUR ORDER.


IT SHOULD FOLLOW THE BASICS OF WELL-BREWED TEA, GIVING THE WHOLE LEAVES PLENTY OF TIME TO STEEP IN HOT WATER.
L-LOVE SHOULD NOT EVER BE MADE TO BOIL OVER.

A CARING HEART SHOULD BE OFFERED TO ALL CUSTOM-ERS...
HELLO.
A PRETTY TEACUP ISN'T ENOUGH TO SATISFY A CUSTOMER'S ORDER.
KARAN (TINKLE)
KARAN
カラ～ン
WEL-COME TO CAFÉ RELISH!
...EQUALLY AND PARTIAL TO NO ONE...
YUUTO-SAN! YOU CAME! ♡
TA
TA
TA
TA (TMP)
H-HEY THERE...
WHOA!!
YORO (STUMBLE)
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GASHAAAAN (CRASSSH)
.....
OWWIIIE ...?

EEEEK!? YUUTO-SAAAN, WAKE UUUP!!
MMMII

LOOK AT YOU FLAUNTING YOUR BOSOM... 'TIS STILL MORNING, SO WOULD YOU NOT SAY YOU ARE GETTING A BIT AHEAD OF YOURSELF, LIZ?
...SOMETIMES I CAN'T HELP BUT AGREE WITH THE CAT PRINCESS.
I'LL KNOCK YOU STRAIGHT OUT OF THE FIELD WITH THIS BAT


NOOO! WAIT, D-DON'T CRACK MEEEE!!
THIS IS MY LIFE, BUT I'M STILL HAPPY.
...I JUST HOPE YUUTO-SAN'S LIGHT FERRY DOESN'T GET SO STRONG THAT IT CHIPS MY DELICATE CUP.

AHA, THERE YOU ARE.
MOKYU (CHEW)
MOKYU
!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU... WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT THERE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU KILLED SOMEBODY FOR IT?
MENAGERIE 28:
THE CAT CRIES AND THE DARKNESS CREEPS IN
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T STAND THE SMELL OF MODERN PEOPLE'S BLOOD?
I DON'T BLAME YOU.
FURU
FURU (SHAKE)
OH, SO YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ANYBODY AT ALL TODAY?

NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE, IN TAKAMIYA CITY, THERE LIVE PLENTY OF AYAKASHI.
AND THERE'S EVEN THE DESCENDANT OF A DEMON SLAYER THERE TOO.
I'M PLANNING ON HEADING THERE MYSELF, BUT YOU'LL JOIN ME, WON'T YOU, TAMA-SAN?
MOKYU (MUNCH)
KUSHA (CRUSH)
MOKYU
YOU LIKE SWEETS, DON'T YOU? THAT'S GOOD.
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO REALLY SATISFY YOU, NOW IS IT?
BO (FWOOM)
KOKU (NOD)

MENAGERIE 28:
THE CAT CRIES AND THE DARKNESS CREEPS IN

...YES, YUUTO AMAKAWA IS FULLY EQUIPPED WITH THE AMAKAWA POWER.
THAT'S WHERE HIS MAGIC-USING CAT STEPS IN TO COVER HIM.
HOWEVER, HE'S HAD TOO LITTLE TRAINING THROUGH ACTUAL COMBAT TO UNLEASH IT AT WILL.
...YES, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT I'LL EVENTUALLY GET RID OF HER.
THE FIRST THING TO TACKLE IS...
...THE FACT THAT THOUGH HE IS A DEMON SLAYER ...
...HE DOESN'T FULLY COMPREHEND WHAT HIS DUTIES ENTAIL.
NOR DOES HE COMPREHEND ME!!
PUN (FUME)
PUN

...MAYBE I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN TRYING HARD ENOUGH TO UNDER-STAND HIS POINT OF VIEW...
I'M THINKING OF VISITING YUU...
SHURU (SLIP)
...I MEAN, OF VISITING AMAKAWA ON HIS OWN TERRITORY SOON.
MOTHER.
STILL...
YUU-CHAN...
BY THE WAY, REGARDING THE INCIDENT WITH THE AYAKASHI IN WESTERN JAPAN...
FU-FU-FU. TODAY IS A FINE DAY INDEED.
...YOU KNOW.

SO I FIGURED SOME WARMER CASUAL CLOTHES WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU.
WELL, THE WEATHER'S GONNA GET COLDER.
GUESS THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR A CAT AND A SNAKE...
THEY CAN'T HANDLE THE COLD
...YOU KNOW.
HE'S RIGHT... WINTER IS COMING UP.
GOYOOOOON (GLOOOOM)
どよーん
YOU ALREADY HAVE PLENTY OF CLOTHES, DO YOU NOT?
BUT WHY DID THE YOUNG LORD SHOWER YOU WITH GIFTS AS WELL, SHIZUKU?
THERE'S A REASON WHY HE BUYS ME THINGS... YOU KNOW.
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD GET TO RECEIVE MORE CLOTHING FROM THE YOUNG LORD. ♡

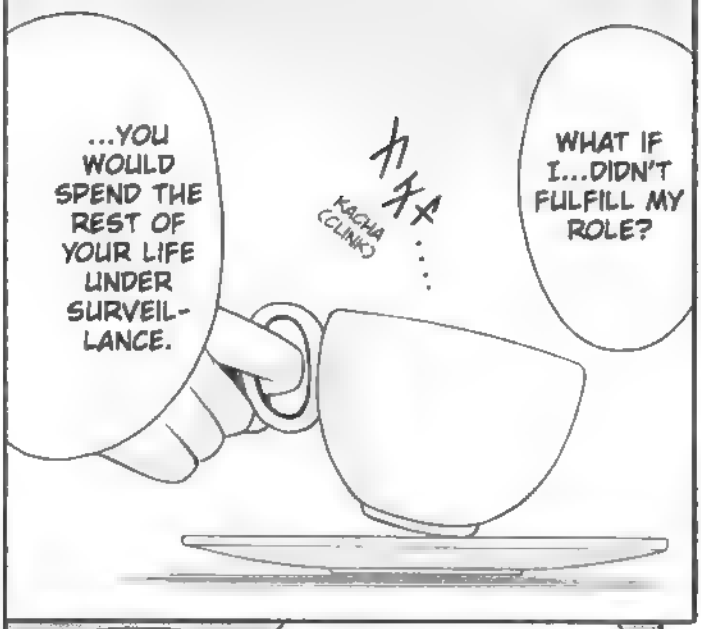
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY BIG WARDROBE.
SO WHERE DO YOU STORE IT ALL...?
.....
THAT'S A GIRL'S SECRET.
...YOU KNOW.
NIYA (SMIRK)
YOU ARE NOT EVEN A REAL GIRL, YOU LIAR. GO INTO HIBERNATION FOR WINTER ALREADY.
DON'T GROUP ME TOGETHER WITH THOSE KINDS OF SNAKES... YOU KNOW.
BESIDES, IF I'M GOING TO SLEEP... I'LL DO IT IN YUUTO'S BED...YOU KNOW.
HE WOULD CATCH A COLD WITH A SLIMY SNAKE LIKE YOU!!
HEY...
GYUU (HUG)
HMPH! ON COLD NIGHTS, NOTHING BESTS A WARM CAT!

THEY BOTH LOOK LIKE REGULAR GIRLS.
LOOKING AT HIMARI AND SHIZUKU NOW, THEY HARDLY LOOK LIKE AYAKASHI.
...COMPARED TO BEFORE, THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIMARI...
SHIZUKU HASN'T REALLY CHANGED THAT MUCH, BUT...
HIMARI'S BACK AT MY SIDE AS MY BODYGUARD.
BUT EVEN WITHOUT HER SWORD IN HAND, I DOUBT ANY-BODY WOULD BE ANY LESS ON THEIR GUARD AROUND HER.
IF ONLY THIS PLEASANT TIME COULD LAST FOR-EVER.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHE DOESN'T HAVE THAT YASUTSUNA SWORD SHE USED TO ALWAYS CARRY AROUND.

!
OH, EXCUSE ME.
WHAT, ARE YOU WITH SOME RELIGIOUS GROUP? THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS GOD IN THIS WORLD.
GET LOST... YOU KNOW.
NO, I HAVE A PERSONAL MATTER I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YUUTO AMA-KAWA-KUN.
THOUGH I DON'T MIND YOU JOINING US, MISS CAT AND MISS SNAKE.
MAY I HAVE A MOMENT WITH YOU?
WITH ME? BUT WHO...
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?

HYOUGO KABURAGI
TEL:
FAX:
KABURAGI-SAN OF UNIT 4 OF THE DEFENSE BRANCH FOR PUBLIC PEACE?
YES, IT'S AN ORGANIZATION THAT DEALS SPECIFICALLY WITH GHOSTS, MONSTERS, AND OTHER CREATURES BEYOND HUMAN UNDER-STANDING.
WE'RE NOT PUBLICLY KNOWN, BUT WE SHOW UP WHEN WE'RE NEEDED.
...SO WHAT'S THAT GOTTA DO WITH ME...?
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, SO LET'S JUST SKIP THE ACT.
WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILY, THE AMAKAWA.
AND WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT YOU CAN WIELD THEIR ANCIENT ART OF THE LIGHT FERRY.
!!
THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES DIFFER FROM YOUR TYPICAL EXORCISTS.
THEIR MEMBERS ARE NOT PEOPLE WE CAN SIMPLY LEAVE TO RUN RAMPANT.

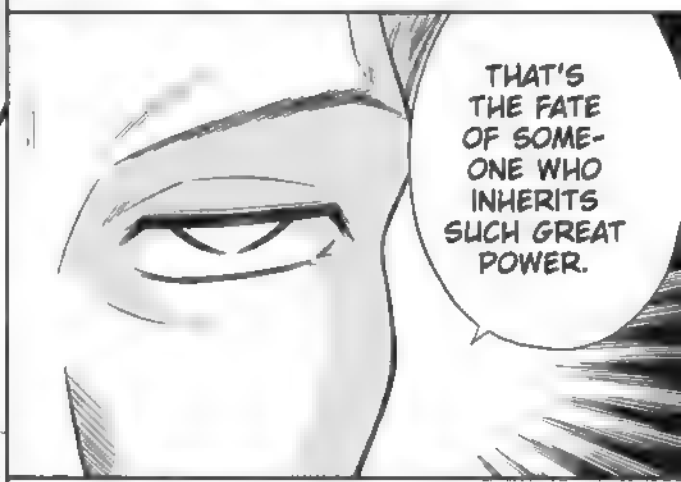
IN EXCHANGE FOR CONSIDERABLE WEALTH AND STATUS, THEY GENERALLY ABIDE BY THIS.
THAT'S WHY THE AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNMENT HAVE ALWAYS PLACED SUCH PEOPLE UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT.
IN YOUR CASE, YOU WERE SEPARATED FROM MASTER GENNOSUKE'S INFLUENCE AND TEACHINGS, HAD YOUR INNATE POWERS SEALED AWAY, AND ONLY RECENTLY AWOKE TO YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL...
THAT MAKES YOU QUITE A VIP, YOU UNDERSTAND?
TOILET
SO YOU WANT ME TO GO UNDER THE SAME MANAGEMENT...?
NORMALLY, YOU WOULD BE PLACED UNDER SUPERVISION THE MOMENT THEY DISCOVERED YOU, BUT THE YOUNG LADY OF THE JINGUUJI HOUSEHOLD WOULD NOT STAND FOR IT.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG AND IN SCHOOL.
BUT I KNEW THAT AFTER MEETING YOU IN PERSON EVEN ONCE, I WOULD WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER THIS.
KUESU ...
.....


...YOU WOULD SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE.
KACHA (CLINK)
WHAT IF I...DIDN'T FULFILL MY ROLE?

IF YOU WILL BE FULFILLING YOUR ROLE AS A DEMON SLAYER, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION.
AFTER THIS?

AND YET NOT ONE PERSON IN THIS CITY KNOWS THAT SUCH A DANGEROUS CREATURE IS LIVING WITHIN THEIR OWN NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
THAT CUTE GIRL SITTING BEHIND YOU WOULD PROBABLY SLIT MY THROAT THE INSTANT SHE SAW ME ACT THREATENINGLY TOWARD YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S A DANGER TOO?

SO EITHER HE BECOMES ONE OF YOUR LAPDOGS, OR HE WILL BE PUT UNDER SCRUTINY LIKE A CRIMINAL SUSPECT...
THINGS NEVER CHANGE, NO MATTER WHAT THE AGE.


THAT'S THE FATE OF SOME-ONE WHO INHERITS SUCH GREAT POWER.

I...
...I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SUBJUGATING THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE AYAKASHI.
I'D RATHER LIVE ALONGSIDE THEM!

SHIZUKU FIRST APPROACHED ME IN AN ATTEMPT TO KILL ME, BUT NOW SHE'S MY FRIEND!
FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER... AND WIPING EACH OTHER OUT IS JUST STUPID.
THERE MUST BE A WAY WE CAN ALL LIVE TOGETHER!
HARMONY IS POSSIBLE!!
...THREE MONTHS AGO IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NIIGATA, A WOMAN WAS EATEN ALIVE.

IT WAS THE WORK OF A HIHI.
SHE HAD A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER.
WOULD YOU TELL HER DAUGHTER THE SAME THING?
IF THE CULPRIT WERE A HUMAN, HE WOULD BE TRIED UNDER THE LAW.
BUT WHEN WE'RE DEALING WITH AN AYAKASHI, THE LAW CAN DO NOTHING, LET ALONE A SINGLE PERSON.

YET YOU NEGLECT YOUR POTENTIAL AND PREACH ABOUT HARMONY JUST BECAUSE YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE FOUND SAFE COMPANIONS.
HOW-EVER, YOU CAN.
BUT FOR TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SPECIES TO LIVE IN HARMONY, THEY NEED A LEADER TO STAND AT THE PINNACLE AND RULE OVER THEM.
HAR-MONY.
SUCH A NOBLE TERM.
WHO'S GOING TO BE THAT LEADER?
YOU?
NOW IS NOT THE DECIDING HOUR.
DO NOT BUY INTO THIS.
!
UH...
THEN ISN'T IT YOUR DUTY TO CONVICT THE GUILTY PARTY YOUR-SELF?

WHY "NOW"?
YOU SAID YOUR NAME IS KABU-RAGI, RIGHT?
IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT KUESU SENT YOU, BUT...YOU STILL DO NOT MAKE ANY SENSE.
IF HE WAS NOT PUT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AT KUESU'S BEHEST...
...THEN WHY TRY TO RECRUIT THE YOUNG LORD WHEN HE HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HIM-SELF?
MUNYU (SQUISH)

...YOU GOT ME.
I'LL SPILL IT.
...THE AYAKASHI NUMBERS IN THE WEST ARE DWINDLING?
THAT'S CORRECT.
WELL, IF THEY ARE INDEED DWINDLING, THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED TO ROPE THE YOUNG LORD INTO ALL THIS.
KUESU HAS EVEN RETURNED FROM ABROAD, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF HELP.
OF COURSE, THEY'RE NOT DYING IN NATURAL WAYS.
SOME-THING'S FEEDING ON THEM.

A-ARE PEOPLE BEING ATTACKED TOO?
A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN PSYCHICS AND EXORCISTS HAVE BEEN KILLED.
SOMETHING IS EATING AYAKASHI AND THEN MOVING ON TO THE NEXT LOCATION.
THIS IS THE WORK OF A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE FORCE.
ZO (VWOO)
THE STRANGE THING IS THAT NOBODY PICKS UP ON ANY KIND OF DEMONIC AURA.....

WHA ...!?
A-AMA-KAWA-KUN, IS SHE ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR ...!?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER IN MY LIFE!!
YOUNG LORD, GET DOWN!!

NO... CAT!!
GA (CLACK)
...!!
HYUO (WHOOSH)
THE ONES SHE'S AFTER ARE US AYAKASHI ...!!
DO (THUD)
WHAT!!?

!!
BIRI (RIP)
HIMARI!
THE YOUNG LORD GAVE ME THESE CLOTHES... HOW DARE SHE!
KA (FLASH)
GABU (CHOMP)
ガブ!!
GUH! AAAAAH .....!!

WHILE HER FOCUS IS ON ME, YOU GET AWAY TO SOMEWHERE SAFE...!
GOKYU- (CHUG)
BU (SUCK)
STAY BACK, YOUNG LORD!!
DA (DASH)
YOU...GET AWAY FROM HIMARI...!
CAT... I'LL HEAL YOUR WOUNDS AFTER... YOU KNOW.
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT...!
THIS RESTAURANT DOESN'T SERVE ALCOHOL, DOES IT?
A PITY.
TSUCHIYA! NAKAMURA! SOMEBODY ANSWER ME!!
NOBODY'S COMING FOR YOU.

HMM... YOU MUST BE A DEMON SLAYER.
HM, HMM.
YOU...!
PARIIN (SHATTER)
NO WORRIES. I ONLY PUT THE OTHER PATRONS TO SLEEP.
TAMA-SAN DOES SO DISLIKE THE STENCH OF THE BLOOD OF MODERN MAN. ♡
YOU SEEM AWFULLY SPRITELY.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

TCH ...!!
PASHA (SPLISH)
A MIZUCHI. IN FACT, A WATER GOD.
NI (SMIRK)
SUCH FINE DEMON ENERGY YOU HAVE.
.....!
.....
.....
WHAT ...?
AH! WAIT, YOU... OW!
TA (TMP)
TA
TA

THAT'S TOO BAD.
...AH, I SEE...
TAMA-SAN JUST ANNOUNCED SHE'S FINISHED EATING FOR THE DAY.
NIKO (SMILE)
YOU HAVE ALL NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH TODAY.
HM? WHAT IS IT?
GUI (TUG)
グイ
GUI
グイ
!
SO I GUESS MY HANDS ARE TIED. HA-HA-HA!
BUT TAMA-SAN INSISTS.
MYSELF, I'M STARV-ING.
TO (TMP)
トン
OH MY. IT SEEMS I MISSED THE PARTY.

I WAS SO HOPING TO JOIN YUU... YUUTO AMAKAWA IN A DANCE OF AYAKASHI HUNTING.
IS IT OVER SO SOON?
BASA (FLAP)
KUESU ...!?
MISTRESS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, TRYING TO COERCE YUUTO AMAKAWA?

IT'S TAMA-SAN AND...
...WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
CHAKI (CHAK)
THE WAY YOU WERE ABLE TO HIDE YOUR DEMON POWERS SO COMPLETELY...
...SHOWS HOW IMPOSING YOU TWO REALLY ARE.
WHAT IS KUESU DOING WITH IT...?
THAT IS YASUTSUNA!?
PIKU (TWITCH)
.....!
KA (FLASH)
IT'S A SHAME I HAVE TO BID YOU FAREWELL WHEN ANOTHER BEAUTY'S JUST ARRIVED, BUT WE MUST TAKE OUR LEAVE FOR TODAY.
KA
KA
THOUGH SHE WAS ALERTED BY TAMA-SAN'S DEMON ENERGY, WE ARE ONLY FRAGMENTS.
WE CRAVE A HIGHER AND PURER DEMON POWER.

.....
HMPH.

HIMARI! ARE YOU OKAY!?
SHE SEALED THE WOUND FOR ME, SO 'TIS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THOSE TWO ARE ACTUALLY...

TAMA... "TAMAMO-NO-MAE"...
I WILL PERMIT NO LOLITA CHARACTER OTHER THAN MYSELF YOU KNOW
AND JUDGING BY THE WAY HE REACTED TO THE SIGHT OF THAT SWORD...HE'S PROBABLY "SHUTEN-DOUJI"... YOU KNOW.

TAMA-SAN BELIEVES YOU WILL ALL GROW ONLY MORE DELICIOUS.
AND SHE'S THE TYPE WHO SAVES THE STRAWBERRY ON THE CAKE FOR LAST.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
SHURURU (VWOOSH)

THE FAIR NINE-TAILED FOX AND SHUTEN-DOUJI...TWO OF JAPAN'S MOST FEARSOME AYAKASHI ...
OH, WHATEVER! THEY'RE ALL COWARDS!!
IF I JUST TURNED OFF MY MAGIC LIMITER, THOSE SMALLFRY WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME.
HIMARI!!
I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO FIX YOUR SWORD FOR YOU.
IF YOU EVER MEET THOSE GOONS AGAIN...
...PUT AT LEAST ONE OF THEM TO DEATH WITH THIS!!
LIVE UP TO YOUR TITLE, CAT!
I SHALL... YOU MAY DEPEND UPON IT.

I HEARD A VOICE WHILE IT WAS HAPPEN-ING.
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO MAKE ME WAIT!?
YUUTO AMAKAWA! YOU ALSO BETTER GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER AND BECOME A PROPER DEMON SLAYER!
WAH! K-KUESU, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT LATER...
I AM SORRY, YOUNG LORD. SHE RUINED THE CLOTHES YOU SELECTED FOR ME.
NEVER MIND THAT. I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT.....
YOU'RE NOT APPETIZING AT ALL.
AS THOUGH YOU MEAN TO MAKE NOT ONLY YOUR APPEARANCE BUT YOUR TRUE NATURE HUMAN TOO.
YOU TURN YOUR DEMON POWERS INWARD.
...WILL GROW QUITE TASTY ALL IN GOOD TIME.
BUT YOU AND THAT BOY..
I SHALL NOT ALLOW HER...TO EVEN TRY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

MILAN MATRA'S RARE POPULAR MAGAZINE DEBUT WORK!!
BONUS TRACK
COMMENCE OPERATION!
MANUAL
©KOGADO STUDIO,INC.

WHAT IS... COMMENCE OPERATION!?

THIS IS A MILITARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ADVENTURE GAME RELEASED BY KOGADO STUDIO ON DECEMBER 16, 2005. MILAN MATRA WAS GIVEN THE TASK OF CREATING A COMIC VERSION OF THE GAME, WHICH IS THE WORK STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE. IT'S HIS FIRST WORK TO EVER APPEAR IN A POPULAR MAGAZINE AND IS THE LEGENDARY PARENT STORY TO *OMAMORI HIMARI*.

DOKAN (KABOOM)
WE ARE AT WAR.
DON'T STOP! KEEP ADVANC-ING!!
EEEEK!
COMMENCE OPERATION!
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT A REAL WAR, BUT...
SECOND YEAR, HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISION
MAORI OSAFUNE (AGE 16)
OH, BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY DARN CLOSE TO THE REAL THING.
STEP TO IT!!
PLATOON THREE, DEPLOY TO THE LEFT!
BARA (SPRINKLE)
BARA
ZA (MARCH)
ZA
EEEK!

THIS IS THE PREPARA-TORY PROGRAM FOR THE ROYAL NATIONAL DEFENSE MILITARY ACADEMY, TSUCHIURA HIGH SCHOOL.

AND WE ARE ITS STUDENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME BUDDING SOLDIERS.
COMMENCE OPERATION!

I HAVE TO WEAR THESE BANDAGES EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT REALLY HURT.
YEAH, YOU GOT ME. A HEALTHY GIRL LIKE ME.
ISN'T IT A LAUGH? ☆
OH, YOU'RE THE WOUNDED SOLDIER TODAY, SUZURI-CHAN?
PASA (FWAP)
DOON (BOOM)
FIRST YEAR, INFANTRY DIVISION
SUZURI NAGASONE (AGE 15)
THE GUYS IN THE ARMORED UNIT ARE USING LIVE AMMO AGAIN...
...SO THERE WILL PROBABLY BE REAL CASUALTIES. YOU'D BETTER GET OVER THERE.
OSA-FUNE-SAN, WE'RE ALL SET HERE.
HUH?
THE ARMORED FIELD GUNS ARE FIRING LIVE AMMO ON THE INFANTRY DIVISION!?
KYURA (RATTLE)
KYURA
KYURA
WHAT !?
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (BLAM)

...HMPH. WHY DON'T THE SOLDIERS ACT ACCORDING TO THE PLAN OR STRATEGY, I WONDER.
Come on, you first-year bums! Don't dawdle!!
Silence those field guns!
TANKS TWO AND FOUR, FOLLOW ME!!
DOGON (BOOM)
MOVE FORWARD!
ZUN (KABOOM)
BA (WHAP)
THIRD YEAR, ARMORED DIVISION
KAGUYA TSUKIYAMA (AGE 17)
DO DO DO DO DO
IMBECILES. ALL OF THEM.
KATA (CLICK)
KATA
KATA
SECOND YEAR, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
NATSUKI SENJUUIN (AGE 16)
DRILLS AND REENACTMENTS ARE TOUGH, BUT WE STILL ENJOY OUR LIVELY SCHOOL LIFE.

ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA (GAB)
ざわ

THEY BRAG ABOUT HOW THEY NOW GET TO BE BANDAGED BY MAORI-SAN AND THE OTHER CUTE GIRLS IN THE HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISION.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THEY'RE DOWNRIGHT HAPPY TO GET HURT BY LIVE AMMO!?
HA HA HA!

THE BOYS IN THE INFANTRY DIVISION ARE JUST PLAIN WEIRD!
PHEW!
UGH, I SWEAR!

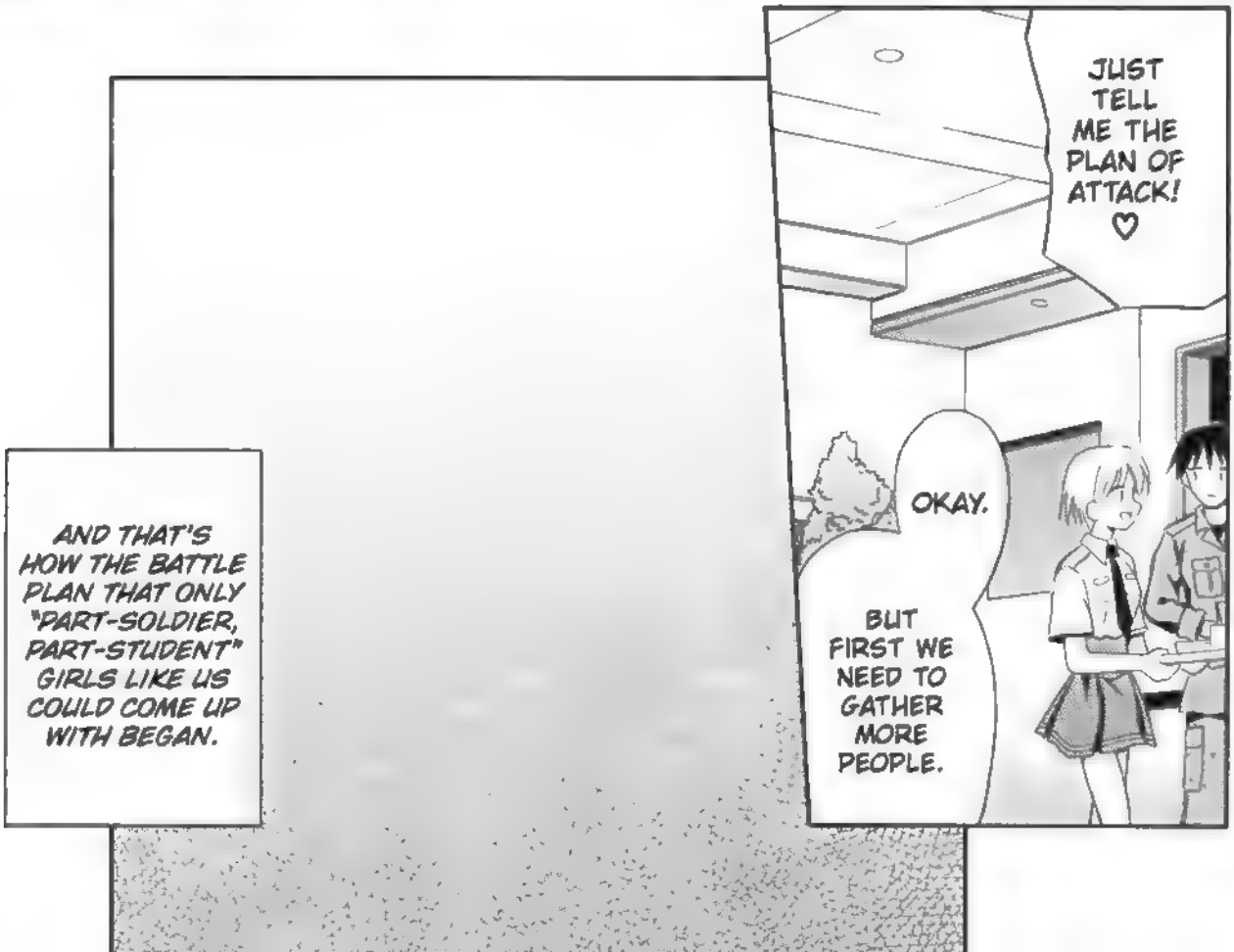
BUT STILL...
...IT'S A GOOD THING THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INJU-RIES...

EEEK!
EEEK!
MEANWHILE, I'M PUT ON THE FRONT LINES AND HAVE TO RUN DASHES UP THE HILL IN ALL THAT HEAVY GEAR!
.....

EVERY-BODY KNOWS THAT THE WORLD IS IN BAD SHAPE.
IT'S BEEN DECADES SINCE THE COLD WAR STARTED BETWEEN THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC NATIONS AND REPUBLICAN FEDERA-TIONS.
IT'LL BE NO SURPRISE WHEN FULL-SCALE WAR FINALLY BREAKS OUT.
THAT'S WHY I...
...WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP...TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED.
IT'S THE REASON I CHOSE TO ENROLL IN A MILITARY SCHOOL.
BUT...
...UH, WHAT WAS THAT?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL NEXT MONTH.
I THINK IT'S IN HONOR OF THE SCHOOL'S FOUND-ING?
...SO WHAT'S YOUR DIVISION DOING FOR IT, MAORI-SAN?

LET'S SEE...SINCE EVERYBODY'S SO TIRED AND WORN-OUT AFTER ALL OUR DRILLS...
...I WANT TO CREATE A "REST SPOT" WHERE EVERYBODY CAN RELAX... I GUESS?
HMMM.
KYUPIIIIN (BINNING)
WELCOME!
A CAFÉ IS RIGHT UP THERE WITH HAUNTED HOUSES WHEN IT COMES TO CULTURAL FESTIVAL STANDARDS !!
A DAZZLINGLY RELAXING ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY ITS CUTE WAITRESSES !!
.....
OOOH! YOU MEAN A CAFÉ, DON'T YOU!? THAT'S SO YOU, MAORI-SAN! YOU KNOW JUST WHAT TURNS GUYS ON!!
HUH ...?
BAN (BANG)

BISHI! (BING)
YES, MA'AM!!
SUZURI NAGASONE WILL TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE OF THIS FIGHT!!
TH-THEN HOW ABOUT YOU HELP ME OUT?
THESE THINGS ARE MORE FUN WHEN EVERY-BODY PITCHES IN.
LUCKY YOU.
I WANNA DO THAT TOO.


JUST TELL ME THE PLAN OF ATTACK! ♡
OKAY.
BUT FIRST WE NEED TO GATHER MORE PEOPLE.
AND THAT'S HOW THE BATTLE PLAN THAT ONLY "PART-SOLDIER, PART-STUDENT" GIRLS LIKE US COULD COME UP WITH BEGAN.

WHAT?
YOU WANT MY HELP FOR YOUR FESTIVAL PROJECT?
AND YOU SAID IT'D BE A CAFÉ? SURE, THE SCHOOL FOUNDING FESTIVAL'S A FAIR, BUT...
...BESIDES REGULAR CIVILIANS, THERE'LL BE GOVERNMENT AFFILIATES AND INSPECTORS FROM NATIONAL DEFENSE HQ.
YOU FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDIC GIRLS DO IT.
WELL, THAT'S ALL TRUE, BUT...
NO THANKS, I'M BUSY.
AAAW.
PLEASE, KAGUYA-SENPAI.

THE FESTIVAL'S A TIME OF BOISTEROUS MERRYMAKING, REMEMBER? AND THERE'LL PROBABLY BE PLENTY OF INJURIES AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT.
WE'LL BE SHORT ON HELPING HANDS..
THE MAJORITY OF THE HEALTH & MEDICAL GIRLS WILL HAVE TO BE ON STANDBY.
UH ...
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ARMORED DIVISION FIRES LIVE ROUNDS, THE FIELD BEDS WILL BE FULL...
THAT'S WHY I WAS HOPING WE COULD HAVE YOUR SUPPORT, KAGUYA-SENPAI. ♡
BIKI (CRACK)
...SORRY, BUT I WAS PLANNING ON RUNNING A POLYPOD COMBAT VEHICLE SIMULATION ON THAT DAY—
DAN (BANG)
TSUKIYA-MAAAAA!!
HFF!
UWAAAH!!

TSUKIYAMA! AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARMORED DIVISION, PLEASE AID OSAFUNE IN HER PROJECT!!
WE SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL THE SQUAD COMMANDERS!!
GU (CLENCH)
PLEASE, TSUKIYAMA-SENPAI!!
UUU...
WH-WH-WH-WHA.....!?
I-IDIOTS! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS THINKING!?
S-STAY BACK
IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE!!
TSUKIYAMA, YOU COULD BE OUR POINT OF CONTACT...
DON'T SAY THAT
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME
...FOR GETTING CLOSER TO THE GIRLS IN THE HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISION!
THERE ARE SO FEW GIRLS IN THE ARMORED RANKS!!
SURE, WE'VE GOT TSUKIYAMA-SENPAI, BUT SHE'S SO LITTLE.
ACK! YOU IDIOT!

DOKAAAN (BOOOOM)
GYAAH!!
YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FANTASIES CAN ALL GO TO HELL!!
AH.
EVENTUALLY GOT ROPED INTO IT
MAORI OSA-FUNE... CAN I HELP YOU?
SEN-JUUIN-SAN!
KO (CLICK)
KO

I CAN'T HANDLE THAT GIRL.
UH, WELL, WE WERE WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO FOR NEXT MONTH'S SCHOOL FOUNDING FESTIVAL.
I'LL BE CONSTRUCTING AND ANALYZING A RETALIATION PROGRAM FOR B-GRADE-STRENGTH DEFENSIVE WALLS.
HUH ...?
I'LL BE LEADING OUR DIVISION'S PRESENTATION.
SO I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE "REST SPOT" YOU PLAN TO CREATE.
WOW, YOU REALLY ARE UP ON THE LATEST NEWS, SENJUUIN-SAN.
WOULD YOU REFRAIN FROM MOCKING ME?
WE'RE HERE TO BECOME SOLDIERS WHO CAN WIN A WAR.
FRIVOLOUS CAFÉS DON'T SERVE THAT PURPOSE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING IN A SCHOOL LIKE THIS, BUT...
...I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU PUTTING YOUR COMBAT SKILLS TO REAL USE, DOING SIMULATIONS, OR PRESENTING THE LATEST IN MEDICAL TREATMENT EQUIPMENT.
SUZURI-CHAN.
IT'S NOT FRIVOLOUS! IT'S NOT A REAL FESTIVAL IF PEOPLE AREN'T ENJOYING THEMSELVES!
HMPH.
OSA-FUNE-SAN, I REGARD YOUR MEDICAL SKILLS HIGHLY.
BUT IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THOSE ABILITIES, IT'S THE SAME AS NOT EVEN HAVING THEM.
...!
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
BLEEEH!

IT WAS FUTILE ASKING FOR HER HELP FROM THE START.
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, KAGUYA-SENPAI!?
...THERE WAS SOME TRUTH TO WHAT SENJUUIN HAD TO SAY.
I DON'T LIKE BEING THOUGHT OF AS ONLY DOING THINGS HALF-ASSED.
AND HAVING MY FEELINGS CONTRA-DICTED.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE JUST PIECES ON SOME CHESS-BOARD OR SOMETHING.
IT'S TRUE THAT WE'RE HERE TO BECOME UPSTAND-ING SOLDIERS.
WE'RE PEOPLE.
OR AM I JUST BEING SILLY BY HOLDING ONTO THAT?
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL SIDE OF ME.

PX — POST EXCHANGE
(AKA THE SCHOOL STORE)
MY, MY. IF IT ISN'T MAORI-SAN AND KAGUYA-SAN! WELCOME.
UWAH
HUH? HOW DID KAEDE-SAN KNOW ...?
YOU'VE BEEN SO OUT OF IT LATELY, YOU DIDN'T NOTICE I'D ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF IT.
NIKO (BEAM)
AS FAR AS THE INGREDIENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR THE SCHOOL FOUNDING FESTIVAL GO...
...I ALREADY PUT IN THE ORDER.
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO HAVE ANY PART IN THIS...
...SO BE GRATE-FUL.

I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN FOR EVERY-ONE—
NOT GOOD, I HAVE TO KEEP MY HEAD ON MY SHOULDERS.
I WAS HOPING I COULD REVIEW THE LIST AND CONFIRM THE DELIVERY DATE...
OF COURSE, RIGHT THIS WAY.
ぽん
PON (PAT)
!
BEING ALL ANXIOUS IS JUST A WASTE OF YOUR ENERGY.
YOU WORRY-WART.

TO BE HONEST, I'VE DONE ALL THIS, AND I STILL DON'T HAVE A REAL GOAL IN MIND.
NADE (PET)
なでなで
NADE
SO I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS OF YOU, MAORI.
SO THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
KAGUYA-SENPAI...
YOU DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS PLAN 'COS YOU HAD A GOAL, REMEMBER?
SHOULD I CROUCH DOWN FOR YOU...?
162cm
145cm
.....
...UM, SENPAI.
HM?
THANK YOU... SENPAI.

NEXT WEEK, WE'LL HAVE THE COOKS START PRACTICING ON THE SAMPLES!
Owww
AT ANY RATE! THE SUPPLIES WILL BE DELIVERED TWO DAYS BEFORE THE FESTIVAL.
BUT YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO USE THE SAME BRAND FOR THE CAFÉ, RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU CAN TASTE HOW CHEAP THE COFFEE THAT THEY SERVE ON CAMPUS IS.
...IT'S BEST TO DO IT WHOLE-HEART-EDLY.
WHATEVER YOU DO...

すぅん
I SEE, AND I THINK I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION.
ALLOW ME TO REVEAL SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT MYSELF. ♡
KA-KAEDE-SAN ...?
I'M A BIT OF WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A TEA AND COFFEE CONNOISSEUR, YOU SEE?
SOME-BODY WHO PREPARES AND SERVES ESPRESSO-BASED COFFEE ...
Fu! Fu! Fu! Fu!
WHAT'S A BARISTA?
LEAVE IT TO ME, AND I'LL TURN ANYBODY YOU GIVE ME INTO A FULL-FLEDGED BARISTA IN FOUR DAYS!

HMM, SO THIS IS ALL WE'LL NEED.
I JUST HOPE WE DIDN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF PATRONS...
YOU DID CHOOSE RATHER PRICEY INGREDI-ENTS.
WE RACKED UP QUITE A BILL, SO ARE YOU SURE WE'RE KEEPING TO THE BUDGET?
SUZURI-CHAN ENLISTED A GIRL FROM THE ACCOUNTING DIVISION, SO WE SHOULD BE FINE.
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH, WHERE IS SU-ZURI?
SHE'S TAKING CARE OF SOME OTHER PREP WITH KUNIKA-CHAN.
OTHER PREP?
YES, SHE'S IN THE HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISION WING, SO LET'S GO SEE HER.

TA-DAAAA!
SUZURI
HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR UNIFORMS, SENPAI? ♡
THE HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISION'S SEWING UNIT IS DETAIL ORIENTED!
ぴょんっ
PYON (HOP)
WOW! SUZURI-CHAN, KUNIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO CUTE! ♡
.....

I COULDN'T MAKE UP MY MIND AT FIRST, BUT WE DECIDED TO GO WITH A DESIGN THAT'S COMPLETELY FREE OF THAT MILITARY VIBE.
OUR OUTFITS FOR THE CAFÉ. OUR UNIFORMS!
WH-WHAT IS THAT!?

AND THE TUSH.
FUWA (FLOAT)
LIKE FOR THE BOSOM.
PURUN (JIGGLE)

...WHATEVER. YOU CAN PUT ON ALL THE RIDICULOUS OUTFITS YOU WANT.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH

THE TEASING, BARELY THERE LOOK WILL STRIKE RIGHT INTO OUR PATRONS' HEARTS! SO GET READY FOR SOME OF THIS, BOYS! ♡
OH, SUZURI-CHAN. SO EXPLICIT. ♡
WOW
GU (CLENCH)
SUZURI

EEK!
EACH IS FITTED TO OUR EXACT SIZES!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE WEARING THIS TOO, KAGUYA-SENPAI.
EEP ……!
IF YOU WORE THIS, SENPAI, YOU'D BRING OUT THE BEASTS IN THE BOYS...
N…… NO……
ZURU (SLIDE)
すぅ…
NEVERRR!!
DOGOOON (BOOOM)
AND SO WE SPENT OUR DAYS WITH GREAT EXPECTA-TIONS AND BUILDING EXCITEMENT IN OUR HEARTS...

...PUTTING ALL WE HAD INTO WHAT WE WOULD ONLY EVER HAVE ONE SHOT AT.
THEN AT LAST...

...WHEN WE WERE ALMOST IN THE CLEAR...
DOOON (BOOOM)
THE MISSILE IMPACTED JUST THIRTY-SIX DEGREES SOUTH OF ZONE B!!
WHOA
...HUH?
SUZURI-CHAN...?
YES, SHE GOT SEPARATED FROM HER PLATOON AND WAS VERY NEAR THE POINT OF THE MISSILE'S IMPACT...
BA (BAM)
IS SHE OKAY !?

UUUGH, DON'T WORRY ME LIKE THAT!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
S-SORRY...
...IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.
EH HEH.
PATHETIC.
GIKUU (JUMP)
BUT I'M GLAD IT WASN'T ANY-THING SERI-OUS.
THE FESTI-VAL'S COMING RIGHT UP.
YEAH, THESE WOUNDS WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

HISO (WHISPER)
THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE TROOPS' DEPLOYMENT CHECK.
THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE MISTAKES AND INJURIES DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR...
PROOF THAT YOUR HEAD WAS IN THE CLOUDS.
BISHI (JAB)
DON'T YOU GET IT?
GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.
YOU WERE SO WRAPPED UP IN THE PREPARA-TIONS FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, YOU WERE NEGLIGENT IN YOUR DRILL.

SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A SOLDIER AND THEN DOESN'T TAKE DRILLS SERIOUSLY DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE HERE.
ONE SMALL MISTAKE ON THE FIELD CAN MEAN THE DEATH OF SOLDIERS AND THE ANNIHILATION OF THE UNIT.
I COULD CARE LESS IF IT'S THE INCOMPETENT SOLDIERS LOSING THEIR LIVES OUT THERE, BUT IF IT'S THEIR FAULT THE WAR'S LOST, THEN THAT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT MATTER.

HMPH.
SENJUUIN-SAN, THAT'S GOING TOO FAR...!
BA (BLOCK)

IS IT ...?
HMPH...
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU AS THE DOCTOR SHOULD BE SAYING?
!
OR IS THIS ALL A GAME TO YOU...?
I SWEAR.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME.
GU (CLENCH)
.....!

SUZURI-CHAN?
I'M OKAY.
BUT I DO TAKE MY DRILLS SERIOUSLY, SO THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY STUNG...
SUZURI-CHAN...
BISHI (POSE)
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I CAN TAKE A HIT, SEE?
AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT MACHINES!
YOU CAN ALWAYS TAKE BACK A MIS-TAKE.
YEAH!

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS PITCHED IN FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT DIVISIONS.
REST
ALWAYS CHECK FIRST BEFORE TAKING A SWEET BREAK!
THE AIM OF THE PROJECT WE'LL BE UNDERTAKING TODAY IS THE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF A SPECIAL REST AREA AND MAID CAFÉ AT THE SCHOOL FOUNDING FESTIVAL.
AND THEN...
...THE DAY FINALLY CAME.
WE'VE PUT A LOT OF TIME INTO THIS, SO LET'S PUT ON OUR BIGGEST SMILES...
THAT IS, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE OUR PATRONS A PLACE TO FEEL AT HOME AND TAKE A LOAD OFF.

CURRENT TIME IS 17:00.
COMMENCE OPERATION!
...AND GIVE THEM THE MOST RELAXING AND ENJOYABLE ATMOSPHERE THEY COULD ASK FOR!
YEAAHHH!!
Welcome to the Tsuchiura High School Founding Festival!!
PON
PON
PON (POP)
Tsuchiura School Founding Festival
HELLO AND WELCOME!

HERE'S A BALLOON FOR YOU
WOW, THIS YEAR'S DRAWN A FULL HOUSE.
MMMMM!
BA (VWIP)
AH, GOOD MORNING, INSTRUCTOR MIYAKO!
HIYA!!
I JUST HOPE NO HOOLIGANS CAUSE A SCENE OR ANYTHING!
YOU SAID IT. I NEVER KNEW CIVILIANS WOULD HAVE SO MUCH INTEREST IN TSUCHIURA.

I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW QUICKLY THEY ALL LEARNED!
BY THE WAY, KAEDE, IS IT TRUE YOU HELPED THOSE PROBLEM STUDENTS OUT WITH THEIR PREPARA-TIONS?
HEY KIDS. NO RUNNING.
YES.
HA!
YOU PUT 'EM THROUGH THE RINGER, DIDN'T YOU?
ALL THAT SWEAT AND BLOOD OVER SOME PUNY REFRESH-MENT STAND.
ガチャ
GACHA (KACHAK)
チリン
CHIRIN
CHIRIN (JINGLE)
WELCOME! COME ON IN!
NOW, COME ON. LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK FOR OUR-SELVES.
OF COURSE NOT.
.....OH YEAH! SAY, AREN'T THEY GONNA HAVE BOOZE THERE?
TCH!
THEY COMPLETELY ELIMINATED IT FROM THE FESTIVAL.

AH! MIYAKO-SAN. KAEDE-SAN. WELCOME! ♡
OOPS!
KYAAAH! YOU ALL LOOK SO ADORABLE! ♡

W...
もじ
MOJI
もじ
MOJI (FIDGET)
WEL... COME...
HERE'S YOUR ORDER
...I'M IMPRESSED THAT IT'S A MAID CAFÉ.
THANK YOU.
ONLY YOU GIRLS COULD PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN A HARD-ASS SCHOOL LIKE TSUCHIURA.
RIGHT OVER THERE.
I WOULDN'T QUITE SAY THAT.
IT'S THE ODDEST THING.
ALMOST HALF OF THE PATRONS HERE ARE FROM THE PREPARATORY PROGRAM.
WHERE'S TSUKIYAMA AT?

HOW HUMILIATING...!
WAH-HA-HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE ADORABLE, KAGUYA-CHAN!!
TEE HEE HEE
KAGU-YAAAA!!
SNORT! SNORT!
DO (RUMBLE) ドドド

WOW... THEY EVEN SERVE DECENT COFFEE HERE.
OH, THAT!
IT'S NOT REAL COSPLAY UNTIL YOU HAVE THE HORDE OF FRANTIC FANBOYS.
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ME TEN YEARS AGO.
SHIN (HUSH)
YOU CALL THIS COFFEE?
THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS SUCH A THOROUGH DRILL SERGEANT WITH THEM.
THIS ISN'T FIT FOR HUMAN CON-SUMP-TION!
EEK!
GO (RUMBLE) GO GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
WAAAAH!
C'MON NOW...

W-
WAAAH!
→JINGLE←
→JINGLE←
SUUU (INHALE)

WELCOME, NATSUKI-SAN.
I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR SEAT.
MAORI
...THANK YOU.
...IS WATCHING TO SEE HOW THIS IS GOING TO PLAY OUT...?
IT'S LIKE EVERY-BODY...
UWAAAH! THE MINUTE SENJUUIN-SENPAI SET FOOT IN HERE, THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE CHANGED.

I THINK I'LL HAVE... A BLEND TODAY.
COMING RIGHT UP!
TSUKIYAMA-SENPAI... I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
SPEAK FOR YOUR-SELF.
ARE YOU HERE TO SPY ON THE ENEMY?
OR WERE YOU REALLY CURIOUS HOW MAORI'S PLAN WOULD WORK OUT?
I HAD A CHANGE OF MIND AND WANTED A BREAK. NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.
KOPO (BLUB) KOPO
コポポ

NATSUKI-SAN.
WHAT YOU SAID IS PROBABLY TRUE.
IN THE FACE OF BECOMING A SOLDIER AND STANDING ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
BUT I STILL...
THANK YOU FOR WAITING. HERE'S YOUR COFFEE BLEND.
KACHA (CLINK)
...MY VALUES ARE PROBABLY COMPLETE NONSENSE.

すう…
SUU (SIP)
KUI (BECKON)
KUI
…?
むにゅ
MUNYU (SQUEEZE)
MAORI
YES, WHAT IS...
EEK!?

AND THAT SKIRT LOOKS FAR TOO SHORT TO COMPLY WITH SCHOOL RULES.
ALL IN ALL, THAT OUTFIT IS UTTERLY RIDICU-LOUS.
THAT APRON DRESS HAS THE DEEPEST CLEAVAGE I'VE EVER SEEN.
.....
MA
BUT WHAT PURPOSE DO SUCH THINGS SERVE...?
AND YOUR SMILE IS HEART-WARMING AND CALMING.
...BUT YOU'RE POLITE TO YOUR CUSTOMERS WITHOUT BEING OVER THE TOP OR TOO SUBDUED.
I SEE ALL TOO CLEARLY NOW HOW SERIOUSLY YOU HAVE TAKEN THIS JOB.

BUT IT'S NOT WHAT WE WERE ORIGINALLY BORN TO DO.
BEFORE WE ARE SOLDIERS, WE'RE REGULAR TEENAGE GIRLS.
BECOMING A SOLDIER WHO WILL FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY... IS INDEED A BEAUTIFUL THING, I AGREE.
WE CRY AND LAUGH AND WORRY AND TRY OUR HARDEST. THEY MAY SEEM LIKE TRIFLING THINGS, BUT...
...IF WE EVER LOST THAT HUMAN SIDE TO US, I FEEL WE'D NEVER GET IT BACK.

EVEN IF WE WIN AT THE WAR, WHERE'S THE FUN IN IT IF WE LOSE AT LIFE?

.....
IT MAY NOT SOUND VERY ELEGANT, BUT I'M AIMING TO BE THE SMILING VICTOR!
I'M A LOT GREEDIER THAN YOU THINK I AM, NATSUKI-SAN.
...CON-VICTION CAN'T BE THAT EASILY SWAYED.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
THAT WAS A FINE CUP OF COFFEE.
GATA (RATTLE)
HMPH.

IT MAY HAVE TASTED GOOD, BUT...
...DON'T GO THINKING WE'LL BE DRINKING THAT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
NATSUKI-SAN...
YAY!
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
...I'M SURE WE COULD DRINK DELICIOUS COFFEE EVEN ON THE FRONT LINES!
DON'T WORRY. IF THE INTELLIGENCE AND HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISIONS CONSTRUCTED A STRONG ENOUGH SUPPLY LINE...

RIGHT?
H-HMPH... DREAM ON!
I WILL!
GABA (GRAB)
YOU DID IT, MAORI-SENPAI! ♡

COME ON, YOU GUYS! THERE'S A LINE FORMING OUT THE DOOR!!
COMING!!
KUUUH!
I NEVER THOUGHT A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL WOULD MOVE ME WITH HER PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE.
SO YOUR AIM IS TO BE A CUTE SMILING VICTOR.
HA-HA-HA
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO CREATE AS MANY MEMORIES AS I CAN.
TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE TO STAND ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
UWAH!
THAT'S HOT!
AND MAYBE THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY HERE'S THINKING TOO.

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
THE HEALTH & MEDICAL DIVISION'S SCHOOL FOUNDING FESTIVAL PRESENTATION PROJECT CODE "MAID CAFÉ"...
BORO (CRUMBLE)
ほ!!
3
...IS OVER!!
WAAAH!
A FEW DAYS LATER...

THE TRUTH IS, THE GIRL I PUT IN CHARGE OF THE BUDGET FROM THE ACCOUNTING DIVISION RAN AWAY THE MINUTE SHE SAW WHO WAS HEADING THE PROJECT, SO...
SHE DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THREE PROBLEM STUDENTS LIKE US.
...I FOUND MYSELF WEARING MY MAID OUTFIT AGAIN.
WELCOME.
WHY...? WHY ME...?
BUTSU
BUTSU (MUMBLE)
I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD THAT WE WERE CHARGED SO LITTLE FOR SUCH PRICEY INGREDIENTS.
BUT...
EH HEH HEH!
...I SLAPPED THE WHOLE BUDGET THING TOGETHER MYSELF.
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GO
(RUMBLE)
UWAAAH!!
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'LL BE PAYING ME BACK WHAT YOU OWE WITH YOUR BODIES. ♡

THE END

THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES

YOU'VE SEEN THE AMAKAWAS AND THE JINGUUJIS, BUT WE NOW PRESENT THE OTHER TEN DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES. READ CAREFULLY BECAUSE SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MIGHT PERTAIN TO WHAT'S IN STORE FOR OUR HEROES DOWN THE LINE!

3RD RANK

KAGAMIMORI FAMILY

This family makes use of ancient Shinto mirror-guard procedures and magic sealing. They are the only family who does not "exterminate" their adversaries so much as "seal" them away. Only a shrine maiden with "Beast Eyes" can head the family.

• Current Status — Active

鏡守森家

2ND RANK

KAMIZAKURA FAMILY

This family uses ancient Shinto charms and curses. After the Great War, they saw their superhuman powers as a threat and sealed them away. After that, they faded into obscurity.

• Current Status — Unknown

上桜家

1ST RANK

TSUCHIMIKADO FAMILY

An esoteric cosmology family trained in the Abe style and renowned as the strongest demon-slayer family. Unlike the Jinguujis, they're shrouded in mystery to hide their activities.

• Current Status — Active

土御門家

6TH RANK

AMAKAWA FAMILY

They possess the Light Ferry, which can augment an object's given power as well as seal away magic powers. Though they rank sixth, they were looked down upon by the other families for their association with *ayakashi* like Himari's ancestors. Though they lost the other families' trust and respect because of the association, their reputation was mended after the War when they came to be seen as model examples of the coexistence between *ayakashi* and humans. The family's power is inherited through the boys.

• Current Status — Unknown

天河家

5TH RANK

HOUJOU FAMILY

This family could manipulate electromagnetic waves, but since the concept of electricity is a fairly recent one, they instead called themselves "thunder masters." At the start of the Showa period, a mysterious explosion decimated both their estate and all the members of the family. However, there is speculation that they brought about their own demise through research and development gone wrong.

• Current Status — Deceased

宝条家

4TH RANK

KOGETSUKYOU FAMILY

Sprung from the ancient forbidden arts, this family specialized in mortal curses and treatments. They're one of two families that were part of the German Ahnenerbe society.

• Current Status — Deceased

弧月境家

9TH RANK

HOMURA FAMILY

This family could freely manipulate fire at will. They were the other family affiliated with the German Ahnenerbe society during the Great War. The two affiliated houses both died during the battle and became extinct.

• Current Status — Deceased

火群家

8TH RANK

JIBASHIRI FAMILY

This family harbored the energy of the earth within their bodies and boasted supernatural strength. It is said that they would accept any commission so long as it had an award waiting for them at the end. They joined the battle as lower-ranked officers and died on the mainland. They are an extinct family line, though there is speculation that a tiny offshoot of the family survives.

• Current Status — Deceased

地走家

7TH RANK

KARASU FAMILY

This family only battled demons through swordsmanship. At the height of the Edo period, they challenged them with the temporarily revived "Nine Tails," but it backfired on them, and they perished.

• Current Status — Deceased

空須家

12TH RANK

JINGUUJI FAMILY

Their origins unclear, this family casts spells and uses magic. They were inducted into the Twelve Families for their exterminating abilities, but their methods were seen as heretical. They eventually turned to Western dark arts. They have the most magical ability out of all the families now, though that power is only passed down through the girls.

• Current Status — Active

神宮寺家

11TH RANK

YAKOUIN FAMILY

This family can see into the future and process information very quickly. However, it can cause sensory overload from the loss of brain cells, resulting in death, so they keep their demon-slayer duties to a minimum. The current head of the family is Hitsugi Yakouin, a pretty little girl who is active as a detective.

• Current Status — Unknown

夜光院家

10TH RANK

HIIRAGI FAMILY

The family that controlled wind and also excelled in martial arts. At the start of upheaval between the warring states, they were to close the gates to Hell with the help of the other families, though they ended up losing the head of their family to the darkness. After that, they quietly retired without producing any powerful offspring.

• Current Status — Deceased

柊家

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Page 9:
Konakijijii
A Japanese spirit that lures people to it with the cries of an infant, but then glams on to its victim and increases its mass, ultimately crushing the victim beneath.

Page 42:
Molly
Word for a female cat, along the lines of "tom" for a male cat.

Page 65:
Tantankororin
An unharvested persimmon that becomes a monster according to Japanese legend.

Nobusuma
A flying squirrel type of monster.

Nuppeppou
A tall, flabby, stinky blob of a monster.

Page 98:
Hihi
A massive, silver-haired creature reminiscent of the Abominable Snowman. Also called a "baboon monster."

Page 112:
Tamamo-no-mae
A legendary figure in Japanese mythology who was a beautiful courtesan coveted by all, but who turned out to be a nine-tailed fox who betrayed the emperor and made him ill.

Shuten-douji
A gigantic *oni* ("demon") who was slain by the sword Yasutsuna.

THANKS TO:

STUDIO HIBARI-SAN

MADAM KOUGETSU MIKAZUKI

AKIHIRO MOGAMI-KUN

HERE WE ARE AT VOLUME FIVE.
AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT!? *OMAMORI HIMARI*'S GOING TO BE MADE INTO AN ANIME!! HIMARI AND ALL YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTERS ARE GOING TO MOVE! AND SPEAK! AND STRIP! (HOLD IT!)
THINKING BACK ON IT, DURING THE THIRD CHAPTER, THERE WAS A PLAN TO MAKE A RADIO DRAMA, BUT I HELD BACK, THINKING "ISN'T IT TOO SOON?" SO WHILE ALL THESE TALKS OF COMPILING A DRAMA CD CAME AND WENT...SUDDENLY IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE ANIME. THIS IS MY FIRST TIME WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS, SO IT'S WICKED EXCITING!

OMAMORI HIMARI CAME FROM ALL THE GOOD RESPONSES I GOT FROM *"COMMENCE OPERATION!"* BUT I'M STILL GOING TO KEEP DOING MY BEST.☆

2009.3

的場みらん

MILAN MATRA

OMAMORI HIMARI 5

MILAN MATRA

Translation: Christine Dashiell • Lettering: Hope Donovan

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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